

Literature Cited

Imhof, T. A. 1962. Alabama Birds. State of Alabama Department of Conservation, Game and Fish Division. University of Alabama Press, University. 591 p.

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NEW COLONY OF CLIFF SWALLOWS AT CEDAR BLUFF

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For at least the past two years Cliff Swallows, Petrochelidon pyrrhonota, have been nesting in association with Barn Swallows under a bridge spanning Weiss Lake on highway 68 just west of Cedar Bluff, in Cherokee County.

Several Cliff Swallows were first observed flying among Barn Swallows near the bridge on the 1977 June Breeding Bird Census. A check under the bridge turned up three active nests. In June 1978 six nests were counted from the same vantage point and more Cliff Swallows were seen among the Barn Swallows. Other nests were probably under a portion of the bridge that could not be seen without a boat.

This new colony represents at least the second occurrence of positive breeding outside the Tennessee Valley since 1975, and the birds have been seen during June and July in Cullman, Walker and Jefferson counties as well (Imhof, 1976). Since Cliff Swallows occupy a niche similar to Barn Swallows and show a similar preference for water and bridges as nesting sites, it seems likely that they may be extending their range southward into the State as Barn Swallows have been doing in recent years. Be on the alert for them darting about among the Barn Swallows near bridges and overpasses.

Literature Cited

Imhof, T. A. 1976. Alabama Birds, 2nd ed. State of Alabama Department of Conservation, University of Alabama Press.

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