

A CLIFF SWALLOW X BARN SWALLOW HYBRID IN WESTERN NEW YORK STATE

On 17 July 2011, Jessie Barry, Andrew Guthrie and I arrived at Point Breeze, Orleans Co., New York. Shortly after, our attention was drawn to an odd pale-rumped swallow that was perched on a railing with a group of recently fledged Barn Swallows. After careful studies, we concluded this was a juvenile hybrid Barn Swallow x Cliff Swallow. The bird appeared most like a juvenile Cliff Swallow but had a more strongly graduated tail, more extensive warm wash to the underparts with a contrasting richly cinnamon throat that was offset slightly by light smudging on the sides of the breast. Two photos of this bird may be seen on page 329. When an adult Barn Swallow came in, this bird would beg with the juvenile Barn Swallows. Begging calls were very similar to Barn Swallow, but slightly rougher and burrier. We are unaware of any previous reports of this hybrid combination from New York and fewer than 10 reports anywhere.

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Juvenile Cliff Swallow x Barn Swallow hybrid, *Orleans*, © Christopher L. Wood.
From above, this bird appears very similar to Cliff Swallow with a contrasting tawny rump. Note, however the more strongly forked tail and odd face pattern. See note p. 307.



Juvenile Cliff Swallow x Barn Swallow hybrid, *Orleans*, © Christopher L. Wood.
The underparts appear most similar to Barn Swallow, with the darker breast that is offset from the paler belly. Note the paler head with dark markings on the throat, which are intermediate between Barn Swallow and Cliff Swallow. See note p. 307.