

First Mississippi Record of the Cave Swallow

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The Cave Swallow (Hirundo fulva) nests in Mexico, some islands of the West Indies, Ecuador, Peru, and the states of Texas and New Mexico. Its wintering range is imperfectly known, though migrations have been acknowledged in the West Indies, and Miller (1957) noted migration of Cave Swallows through Costa Rica. Specimens are known from the Dry Tortugas and the Florida keys. A single sighting in Alabama was made in April 1984 by Dwight Cooley and Mark Brown. Martin (1974) described expansion of the Cave Swallow's breeding niche in Texas and New Mexico, exemplified by syntopic culvert nesting with Barn Swallows (H. rustica).

On 25 March 1986, Hall found a fresh carcass of a Cave Swallow about 60 m from the north shore on the western half of Horn Island, Jackson County, Mississippi. That night a raccoon disemboweled the bird, but Ted Simons was able to prepare a recognizable study-skin, which has been deposited in the ornithological collections at Mississippi State University.

Temperatures on 25 March ranged from 14-29 degrees C. Skies were clear, and the wind was blowing from the southeast, favoring the theory that this individual came from the West Indies, rather than from the western states or Mexico. This represents the first record of a Cave Swallow from Mississippi. We thank Mr. Philip C. Darby of VPI & SU for coordinating the visit to Horn Island.

Literature Cited

- Martin, R.F. 1974. Syntopic culvert nesting of Cave and Barn swallows in Texas. *Auk* 91:776-782.
- Miller, A.H. 1957. Check-list of the birds of Mexico. Cooper Ornithological Society, Berkeley, Ca.