

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*



Folk Name: (none)

Status: Migrant

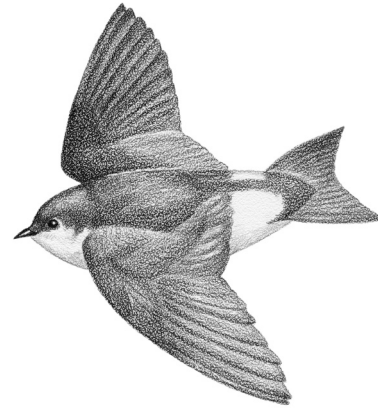
Abundance: Accidental

Habitat: Open water, fields

The Violet-green Swallow is a common bird that lives in the western United States. They are casual east of the Mississippi River.

The first and only accepted record of a Violet-green Swallow in the Carolinas is a single individual photographed by Rob Van Epps on May 5, 2016, flying over Lake Davidson in northern Mecklenburg County. Van Epps sighted this bird moving through with a mixed flock of swallows. He was able to take multiple photographs despite the fact that the bird was flying fast and darting up and down, as swallows do. The bird appeared not to associate directly with any of the other four swallow species that were present. Van Epps later wrote:

The most noticeable feature was the very white rump area. The white came so far up the sides that it appeared all white at first. It took a decent look to tell that there was a small line of dark coloration down the middle of the rump. The belly was pure white. The upper wings and top of the head were brownish but you could see the green color on its back when it banked the right way. The color was more muted than the brighter (male) tree swallows and maybe more green than blue-green of the tree



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swallows. Definitely, a female from the lack of color. I couldn't tell if the color extended to the wings, but the top of the head was definitely brown.

The bird was observed by several other observers on May 7, 2016. Van Epps submitted a written report and photographs to the North Carolina Bird Records Committee for review. The committee reviewed the report and sent the photographs for outside review. They ultimately accepted the record as valid and as the first record for the state. However, committee rules require *clear* photographic evidence for species to be placed on the Definitive List. Therefore, this species was added to the state's Provisional Bird List.