ABARN SWALLOW NEAR NANTAWARRA. On 6 February 1995 at 0750 h, I saw a single swallow flying around our farmyard, 6 km SW of Nantawarra (N of Pt Wakefield). For about 15 minutes the bird flew around the yard, hunting insects. Finally it perched on an overhead power line and I was able to view it from almost directly below, less than 10 m away with 7 x 40 binoculars.

Despite weather conditions being overcast and dull, the bird's rufous throat bordered by a black band could be easily seen. The white underparts were noticeably brighter than those of a Welcome Swallow Hirundo neoxena. These two features confirmed that it was a Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica. The bird's plumage appeared slightly dishevelled, but a moderate northerly wind may have accentuated this.

The swallow perched on the power line for at least 10 minutes, until a Willie Wagtail Rhipidura leucophrys swooped and scared it off. It soon returned to the same perch and remained in the vicinity for about one hour.

This is the second published record of the Barn Swallow for South Australia, the first being made by Lynn Pedler in March/April 1977 near Koolunga (Pedler 1977).

I would like to thank Lynn Pedler for assistance in preparing this note.

REFERENCE


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