

☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD☐ NEW STATE RECORD☒ ACCEPTED☐ REJECTED *QR 8/5/75*Species: SHORT-BILLED MARSH WRENCistothorus platensis

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): April 5, 1975Time Bird Seen: mid-morn, 10:30

app. 10:45

Locality: CFI ReservoirNearest Town: Pueblo,County: Pueblo

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Thompson Marsh, Sophia Bogart, Thomas Gatz, Bernice and Paul Merry		
Christine Bonney, Mary Jane Snrock, Ralph Sargent		

Optical Equipment: Bushnell Customs 9x36

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: Clear, sunnyDistance from bird (how measured): 15 to 20 feet estimatedNumber of Birds Seen: one Sex: unknown Plumage: unknown

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: When singing was visible at height of from app. 5 ft. to within about 1 ft. from ground in very bushy, but dead Tamarix pentandra. As the bird worked its way down the bush, to eventually go to the ground, its singing became less intense, and eventually ceased altogether. When upon the ground, it presumably walked away, our view being blocked by cattails. Small size, and cocked tail identified it first as a wren. In summary, behavior very secretive-but not so much as to keep us from seeing the bird for approx. 10 to 15 minutes.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern.

Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field: Diagnostic marks actually observed by me: Undertail coverts definitely dark; Pale eyestripe, with crown, streaked, broken-not solid color; Flanks and rump area a definitely cinnamon color; upper back not obviously streaked, if at all; breast coloring was definitely two-toned, or light-dark-light and then dark again for under-tail coverts. Darkest part of breast and stomach was located across upper stomach. Bill, was dark and I couldn't honestly say bill length appeared to be shorter than Long-billed Marsh Wren. This point may not be reliable, I just don't know. Tail length, not short, not too long-medium in length.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: This point definitely convinced me and most of the other also. I had with me at the time, a portable recorder, with which to, hopeful call out for study, Long-billeds, here in the marsh. Comparison, directly off of the recorded song of both marsh wrens with the singing bird left little question as to which wren we had. Singing bird's call was very consistent, not varying like Long-billeds. Song started with 4 or 5 short 'chips' and ending

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: with a rapid trill. This sequence repeated at least 1 Cattail Marsh with standing water. EACH TIME THE SAME. Very few openings, but these with meadow-grass times. where within the song was there small cottonwood and thick brush woodlot any recognizable phrases or notes of the Long-billeds. borders area on south

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

The only other species we have to be concerned with, without being to egotistical, is the Long-billed Marsh Wren, winter and House Wrens. Most points established herein are to eliminate the Long-billed Marsh wren. Two-toned breast and belly, essentially strikes out other normal plumaged wrens, save Short-billed. The song comparison definitely does not weaken our contentions. The streaked crown and dark undertail coverts also strengthens identification as these characteristics also eliminates most other normally plumaged wrens. I realize the short comings of field identification when most individuals do not recognize individual variations, sexual differences, molting patterns, and the rare aberrant bird, but, allowing for all of the above, it is still hard to deny the song comparison. The chance of an aberrant plumaged Long-billed Marsh Wren to also have an aberrant song is just too small to be considered a possibility. Without the recorder, it would be hard indeed to be so sure.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

This was my first encounter with the Short-billed species. I have on many occasions called up Long-bills with portable recorder and have been given good views of this species, and, I might add, in this very spot. I realize the habitat was not characteristic for Short-billed Marsh wren and is perfect for Long-billed. On 6 April, I returned to this location alone, and was disappointed in not seeing, nor hearing the bird in question. This might mean, however, that the bird seen on the preceeding day was indeed a migrant, and migrants are not good readers of field guides, as to proper habitat.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Peterson's western field Guide to Birds
Birds of North America

Bent's Life Histories of North American Nuthatches, Thrashers, and Allies

Sutton's Birds of Oklahoma

This report was written from notes made during _____ after ☒ observation; from memory _____

PRINT NAME: Jerry C. Ligon SIGNATURE: Jerry C. Ligon DATE: 13 Apr 75
Street Address: 2608 Vinewood Town and State: Pueblo, Colo ZIP: 81001

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: Short-billed Marsh Wren
 (Vernacular Name)

Cistothorus platensis
 (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): April 5, 1975

Time Bird Seen: About noon for about 15 min.

Locality: C.F. & D. Lakes, near Pueblo

Nearest Town: Pueblo

County: Pueblo

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Jerry Ligon</u>	<u>Pueblo, Paule + Bernice Mary</u>	<u>Sophia Bogart</u>
<u>Christina Bonney</u>	<u>Ralph Sargent</u>	<u>Mary Jane Schuck, Tom Bates</u>

Optical Equipment: 20 X 60 Jasco

Light Conditions: good

Distance from Bird (how measured): about 60 feet - guess

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: adult

Overall Appearance and Size: small brown bird with a short tail - smaller than a sparrow

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): short, thin, brown

Legs (shape and color): —

Crown and Forehead: Crown finely streaked with light & dark brown Eye (color): dark

Nape: like crown

Face: buffy, with faint stripe Throat: pale brown

Breast and Sides: buffy

Belly and Flanks: —

Undertail Coverts: —

Back: streaked with dark brown - indistinct white

Wings: brown

Underwings: —

Rump: brown

Uppertail Coverts: brown

Upper Side of Tail: brown - no white

Under Side of Tail: —

Shape of Tail: very short + narrow

Voice: The bird responded to Jerry Ligon's tape of a short-billed call

Behavior: moved about in a thick tangle of branches

Habitat: Cattails

Prior Experience with this Species: One at Bonny Reservoir; several in Manitoba - all in cattails.

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated?

Long-billed Marsh Wren would have a conspicuous eye-line; strongly streaked back, plain crown + white breast. House Wren + Winter Wren would not have streaked backs. Bewick's would have strong eye-line + white tail marking.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during — after — observation; Memory X

Signed: Thompson Marsh

Street Address: 199 Ash

Date Prepared: 4-6-75

Town and State: Slaver, Colo 80220

ZIP

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

(USE REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET OR ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY)

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD REPORT
☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☐ NEW STATE RECORD

CFO-ORC FILE # 42-75-31

Accepted JR 8/5/75

Species: SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN
(Vernacular Name)

CISTOTHORUS platensis
(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): APRIL 5, 1975 Time Bird Seen: 11:15 AM to 11:30 A.M.

Locality: CF & I LAKES, LOWER RESERVOIR

Nearest Town: PUEBLO COLORADO

County: PUEBLO

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

THOMPSON MARSH

JERRY LIGAN, PUEBLO LEADER

SOPHA BOGART

OTHERS

CHRISTINE BONNIE

Optical Equipment: 10X40 ZEISS DIALYT

Light Conditions: GOOD - FULL SUN AT BACK

Distance from Bird (how measured): 30-50 ft by sight

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: SPRING

Overall Appearance and Size: WREN

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): TYPICAL WREN

Legs (shape and color): "

Crown and Forehead: LIGHT BROWN SLIGHTLY STREAKED Eye (color) BROWN

Nape: SLIGHTLY STREAKED Face: BUFF STREAK OVER EYE Throat: WHITE

Breast and Sides: BUFF TO BROWN

Belly and Flanks: WHITE

Undertail Coverts: DID NOT OBSERVE - BUT OTHERS IN PARTY DID

Back: LIGHTER BROWN-STREAKED

Wings: DID NOT OBSERVE - BROWNISH

Underwings: "

Rump: DID NOT OBSERVE

Uppertail Coverts: DID NOT OBSERVE

Upper Side of Tail: "

Under Side of Tail: " (BUT OTHERS IN PARTY DID)

Shape of Tail: SHORT

Voice: WE HAD TAPE OF BOTH SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN + LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN - PLAYED

ALTERNATELY - VOICE OF BIRD OBSERVED A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM BOTH BUT MORE LIKE

SHORT-BILLED

Behavior: EXTREMELY FURTIVE - VERY DIFFICULT

TO OBSERVE IN FULL VIEW

Habitat: IN BUSH ISOLATED IN CATTAILS AREA EDGE OF RESERVOIR

Prior Experience with this Species: NONE OF SIGNIFICANCE

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? ONLY OTHER BIRD IT COULD HAVE BEEN
IN MY OPINION WAS LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN - EXPECTED IN THIS HABITAT
& LOCALITY - SPECIES DID NOT HAVE DARK BROWN HEAD CAP - DID NOT HAVE
WHITE STREAK OVER EYE - DID NOT HAVE CLEAN WHITE THROAT & BREAST
CHARACTERISTICS DESCRIBED ABOVE DISTINCTLY OBSERVED EVEN THOUGH
BIRD VERY DIFFICULT TO OBSERVE BECAUSE KEPT HIDDEN IN BUSH

This Report was Written From: Notes made during -- after ☒ observation; Memory ☒

RALPH SARGENT

4/7/75

160 RACE STREET