

Species: SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN Cisothorus platensis
 (Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 25, 30, 1969 Time Bird Seen: late afternoon to mid-morning
 Locality: Latham Reservoir
 Nearest Town: LaSalle County: Weld

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>John and Marjorie Lett</u>		
<u>John and Joyce Cooper</u>		

Optical Equipment: 10 X 50 binoculars, 15-60X B & L telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: sunny, with sun at right angles or behind observers

Distance from bird (how measured): minimum estimated 25 feet

Number of Birds Seen: 2 Sex: both Plumage: adults

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The two birds were observed in a wet, grassy marsh at the edge of a large cattail marsh. The male was observed singing frequently from a exposed perch. The other bird was seen much less well as it always remained in the reeds and other vegetation. The male was observed through both binoculars and telescope while singing.

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:

Crown brown with short blackish streaks. Back brown with a some black and white streaks in the center of the back. Tail brownish with some dark barring. Throat, breast and underparts buffy. A fairly inconspicuous buffy superciliary line. Bill short and pointed, the tail short and cocked.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

The bird sang repeatedly from the same exposed top of a sedge. My notes contain no description of the song, but as I remember it was basically buzzy and unmusical. Long-billeds were singing nearby, and the songs compared and agreed by all observers that the songs were different, but the difference is not in my notes.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Grass or sedge marsh, with cattail marsh to one side and open, dry pasture on the other. The birds always remained in the sedges, never venturing into the cattails which were well populated with territorial Long-billed Marsh Wrens.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

The small size and cocked tail identify it as a wren, the wet habitat as a marsh wren. The Long-billed Marsh Wren was eliminated because that species has a solid, not streaked, a strong white superciliary line, not an inconspicuous buffy one, white not buffy underparts and a somewhat different song. The segregation of the two species according to cattails and sedges was pronounced, the 15+ Long-billeds always remaining in the cattails, and the two Short-billeds always remaining in the adjacent grass and sedge marsh. Because the two areas were adjacent, and the birds frequently singing from exposed perches, we were able to leisurely study both species at close distances through both binoculars and telescope.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I had never seen either species prior to this day. I have since seen the Long-billed many times in Colorado, the Short-billed once in Colorado since then.

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

The Peterson and Robbins guides were consulted and they confirmed the identification.

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

PRINT NAME: Robert Andrews SIGNATURE: Robert Andrews DATE: Sept 25, 197
Street Address: 1390 South Ivy Way Town and State: Denver, Colorado ZIP: 80224

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