

Species: SEDGE WREN (SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN)
 (Vernacular Name)

Cistothorus platensis
 (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 16, 1976 Time Bird Seen: approx noon to chased it about 40 minutes

Locality: Jumbo Reservoir

Nearest Town: Crook Colorado

County: Logan

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Steve Larson</u>	<u>Mapleton, Boulder, CO</u>	<u>442-3752</u>
<u>Barry Knapp</u>	<u>Osage, Boulder, CO</u>	<u>444-8390</u>

Optical Equipment: too close to use

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: full sun

Distance from bird (how measured): up to 2'; almost caught it with a sweater

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

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Extremely elusive. When I chased him from one clump of grass, it flew a few feet, dropped abruptly, and hit the ground running. I finally got 10 or 12 quick looks, enough to have seen each field mark I was looking for. Behavior was very distinctive.

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:

Very small with a wren's short, barred tail. Very slim, pointed bill. Black and white streaking from top of head down back. Butt along sides, abdomen, under tail. Most of my looks were from above, at the streaking down head & back and the barred tail.

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

not heard

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

clumps of grass along edge of alfalfa field. Preferred areas where grass was mixed with alfalfa to areas of pure alfalfa.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Sparrows were eliminated by the shape of its pointed bill and by its short barred tail.

Long-billed marsh wren was eliminated because this bird did not have a solid black cap. Behavior and habitat were both different from a long-billed's.

No other small U.S. wren has white streaks on its back.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

No experience with short-billed marsh wren, but many, many observations of every other U.S. wren.

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

In the middle of chasing it from clump to clump of grass, we consulted Robbins Braun & Zim's Birds of North America. After consultation, I was especially careful to note placement of areas of buffy coloration on underparts. Discussed field marks with Steve Larson, who has chased it before.

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

PRINT NAME: Narcis Schor SIGNATURE: Narcis Schor DATE: July 7, 1976
Street Address: 4475 N. Broadway #11 Town and State: Boulder, CO ZIP: 80302

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