

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

A

Species: Sedge Wren; Cistothorus platensis
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): May 5, 1984 Time Bird Seen: 3 PM to 3 15 PM

Locality: Colorado City Metro District Marsh on
Greenhorn Creek - Colorado City, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 6x30 ; 7x35 Binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Breeding

Light conditions: Good - the sun was to our back

Distance from bird, and how measured: 15 yards estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Bird moved frequently staying very close to
ground level darting in and out of dense vegetation.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Marshy habitat covered with duck weed, watercress,
small willows, dense brush

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Mark Bosch 3 Chicory Court Pueblo, Co. 81001
Dave Johnson 16 Tartan Lane Pueblo, Co. 81001

APPENDIX 1I Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

A very small wren with buffy underparts, indistinct buffy eye-line, indistinct finely streaked nape & back. Held tail perpendicular to body. Its bill was slightly down-curved. Overall color of wings & tail were brown.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

This bird did not sing

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Marsh wren is not as buffy below & has more distinct eye line and back streaking. Winter wren lacks back streaking & has barring on the belly.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have observed this bird on breeding grounds in northern Michigan and in its winter range in Florida & southern Texas

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

Name (print) : David A. Silverman
Mailing address: P. O. Box 362 Rye, Colorado 81069
Signature: David A. Silverman

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205