

# APPENDIX II

42-91-52

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

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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): 16 Oct. 1991 Time Bird Seen: 11:30 AM to 5:30 p.m.

Locality : Meadowbrook Subdivision, Colo. City, Colo. property of Allen Eurich  
Colorado City, Co. Pueblo County Colorado  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Zeiss 10x40 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Light conditions: FULL SUN & DUSK

Distance from bird, and how measured: LESS THAN 12 FT. TO 60 FT. - Paced off

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Feeding in dense grass 24-30" high. would fly 10-30' when disturbed & resume feeding while hidden. flight was slow & appeared labored. Frequently harassed in flight by swamp sparrows. single call notes given every 10-30 seconds.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Dense grass 24-30" hi. with occasional bushes 3-4 ft. hi. Tributary of Greenhorn Creek seeped through the center of the 30'x40' grassy meadow. A pond, cattails & marsh wrens nearby which this bird shunned.

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

16 OCT David Silverman P.O. Box 362 Rye Co. 81069-0362  
17 OCT. Mark Janos 10 Sedum Ct. Pueblo, Co. 81001  
16 OCT Johnie Dickson 55 Villa Dr. Pueblo, Co. 81001



APPENDIX 11 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. Typical wren posture with tail cocked-up. Smaller than Marsh Wren. Bill shorter than Marsh Wren & slightly decurved. Upper mandible dark, lower mandible slightly lighter. Forehead, crown, nape & back medium brown streaked with tan. 8-10 thin tan streaks on crown & nape. 15-20 streaks on back extending from scapulars to scapulars; from nape to lower back. Streaking best seen in lower light levels. Inconspicuous buffy eyebrow stripe. Sides of breast, belly, flanks, & undertail coverts rich buff & orange tint. Throat, center of breast & belly buff-white. Upperwing coverts & upper tail medium brown & rich buffy orange barring. Dark iris

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

single call note: soft "chup" - not nearly as loud or metallic as

adjacent swaind sparrows.

NOTE: Mark Janos heard the bird singing the next day - so prob a male

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

All other small wrens  
Marsh Bewick's  
House Carolina  
Winter  
Rock  
Canyon

- 1) streaked crown
- 2) indistinct eyebrow
- 3) no barring on underparts
- 4) buffy undertail coverts
- 5) no white on outer tail

Prior experience with this and similar species:

NO prev. experience with sedge wren

NUMEROUS sightings of wrens listed above

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

Name (print) : Robert Dickson

Mailing address: 55 Villa Dr. Pueblo, Co. 81001

Signature: RD Dickson

Return Form To:

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



## APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS42-91-52  
ASpecies: 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): 17 Oct 1991 Time Bird Seen: 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Locality: \_\_\_\_\_

Colorado City, Colo.

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: B&L 10x42 Elite binocularsIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: -Number of birds seen: one Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Plumage: adultLight conditions: Late afternoon; low sun above hill sidesDistance from bird, and how measured: Initially 8-10 feet; then further, 50-100' est.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Very secretive. At first I scared it up from weeds & it perched close to me, in heavy weeds. But it was easy to see and fairly tame for a minute. Then it flew off with a weak, low flight and stayed hidden in the weeds & brush thereafter.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Weedy, brushy, grassy area along a small creek running through a horse pasture. The bird stayed in high weeds, adjacent to, but not in, a marsh.

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

Bill Fink and Joe Roller heard, but did not see the bird.

The bird was originally found by Bob Dickson & seen by Dave Silverman later.



# APPENDIX II 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. When I first saw it, it perched with curiosity, turning "posing" from several angles and cocking its short tail up at a high angle. The bird was tiny, about 4" long and overall tannish-brown. Undersides were pale and tan, richer across flanks and sides of breast. Undertail coverts buff, plain and unbarred. Head streaky, brown with vague paler superciliary. Crown was darker and quite distinctly streaked with fine tan lines on a dark brown background. Back was narrowly and indistinctly striped with white or blackish. Wings (folded) were richer brown, esp. on coverts; checkered on coverts and flight feathers with black.

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

"Chipped" often from low hidden perch. Chip is a sharp, rich note, reminding one of yellow-rumped Warbler. Bird once approached close, low and hidden and chipped aggressively. Also sang repeatedly (about 20 times), a thin chattering song; weaker & less varied than Marsh Wren.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Small size, overall brown color & short tail indicate a wren. Winter Wren similar, but has shorter tail, barred undertail coverts and unstreaked crown. Similarly House Wren is ruled out. Canyon & Rock Wrens, though streaked above, are larger, long-tailed, different habitat. Marsh Wren has unstreaked crown, longer tail, different call, less checkered on wings.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen all N. American Wren, including several Sedge Wrens in Texas (spring) and singing on breeding grounds in Wisconsin.

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

Name (print) : MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 10 SEDUM CT. PUEBLO, CO 81001

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

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