

Species: Sedge Wren
(Common Name)

Cistothorus platensis
(Scientific)

For Atlas Office Use

Topo Map--Name

Wellington, T&N R68W Section 5

RC

Tech On

Atl Off

--Number Lat Long # Lat/Long

--Sector SE SW CE CW NE NW

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, for research projects like the Atlas, a written description for unusual species is essential. The final atlas project must have a solid basis, and for unusual records, we require written documentation. By providing the verifying written description you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method. The Atlas Technical Committee will review the report and approve it for inclusion in the Atlas database.

This form will perpetuate your record for examination by others in the future. The Atlas requires this of every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date(s): June 15-24, 1993; June 27, 1993 Time seen anytime during the day present - observed in morning and afternoon and
to heard at night.

Locality At farm owned by Kathy and Steve Martin, in grass hay field

Nearest town & county 2 miles SW of Wellington, Larimer County

Number seen	Gender	Ages	Plumage	Photos
	Males <u>1</u>	Adults <u>1</u>	Breeding <u>1</u> Transition	Yes/No <u>yes</u>
	Females	Juv/Imm <u>~</u>	Eclipse Dark phase	Avail. <u>yes</u>
	Imm/O	2/3 yr	Winter Light phase	Encl <u>yes</u>
	Unk	Unk	Other	

Distance from bird(s) As close as 5 feet Light conditions bright sun Notes made: At time of sighting X

Optical Equip Leitz Trinovid Binoculars 7x After observation from memory

Describe - habitat: Hay meadow comprised of smooth brome, orchard grass, tall fescue and intermediate wheatgrass. * Sedge wren arrived just after completing irrigation cycle in this field, and departed after field had dried out. During the period it was present, the bird sang frequently during the day and sometimes at night after dark. Hay was 3 1/2' tall!

Atlas Breeding Code Overall behavior. Did it interact with any other birds? Describe.

"X" or "T" Singing male. Because it was always present within a specific area of the hay field, it is likely this bird was on a "territory." However, in the absence of other sedge wrens, no "territorial behavior" was observed, other than song. ** on 2 occasions I played back the bird's song that I had recorded. It immediately responded and flew very close to me -- within 5 feet, where it repeatedly sang and showed much agitation. This was clearly territorial behavior (but it was induced by me rather than by a conspecific)

Typical Cistothorus wren, first identified as sedge wren by song and later observed very well (and photographed) on several occasions. A week supercilious, light streaking on back ^{and crown}, and conspicuous buffiness under tail and on flanks.

What song or sounds did it make? The normal "chop chop chop ... choprrr" song. I heard it hundreds of times while the bird was in the field, and recorded more than 100 feet of its song. 50' of "good" quality recording.

Field marks not seen. Why not?

all marks observed.

Variation from expected field marks

none

List similar species. Why and how did you eliminate them?

The only other Cistothorus wren in N. America is Marsh wren. Eliminated based on song, the observed bird did not have the obvious strong white supercilious of the marsh wren, nor the very conspicuous markings on the upper back.

What is your experience with this or similar birds? For 7 years I researched Bordlinks on a wet riverbottom meadow in Wisconsin. Sedge wrens inhabited the research field and I became very familiar with the species' song and behavior.

Name (print)

Stephen G. Martin

Signature

SG Martin

Street address, city & zip

7121 N. County Road 9, Wellington, CO 80549

Telephone

303-568-9333

Corroborating observers not reporting separately (but encourage them to provide a report):

Name

David Leatherman; Joe and Adam Mammoser; Kathy Mammoser

Signature

Street address, city & zip

2048 White Rock Ct., Ft. Collins, CO 80526

(Leatherman)

2919 Worthington Ave., Ft. Collins, CO 80526 (Mammoser)

Sedge Wren
Wellington, CO
20 June '93

irrigated hay meadow owned
by Steve & Kathy Martin



