

CFO-ORC FILE # 42-96-55Accepted 6-1

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

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Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Sedge Wren Cistothorus platensis  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): Dec. 12, 1996Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: basicLocality: Valco Ponds marsh along CO. 96 Elevation: 4700'Nearest town: Pueblo County: PuebloTime(s) observed: 1:25 p.m. MSTDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 4-5 sec. (out of a 2 hour search)

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Brandon Percival, Pueblo (see CFO roster)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

full sun, from above and side, mostly frontal and quick side view.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Binoc : Swarovski 8 x 56Distance, and how measured: 15-16 ft., close focus for my binocsIf photographed, type of equipment and film: noWho else photographed the bird? no

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): One minute after I had played a short segment of Sedge Wren song on my tape, I saw from within open spaced cattails a small bird jump up to grasp an upright reed, 3 feet high; bird perched briefly, called once, then dropped directly down into hiding among cattails standing in and near water.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

(back)

*Description (continued):*

Size smaller than Song Sparrows calling and hopping about nearby; overall uppers seen were brown (back, tail, legs not observed). Short, thin dark bill, dark eye, distinctive finely streak crown with hint of supercilium. Chin, throat, breast off-white color, n the immaculate white of Marsh Wren. Sides of breast buffy.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

From perch on reed stem: one time, 2 quick, high pitched, crisp "chip" notes before dropping down into cattails.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Winter cattails, upright and some flattened areas. Shallow open water and open spaces in cattails where wren was seen. Marsh edges: willows, s trees, grass, weeds. CO. 96 on S. edge of marsh, Arkansas River to the no beyond 40-50 yds. deep of willows/earthen dike.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Marsh Wren larger, more reddish in color, striking white supercilium, throat and breast; unstreaked crown, call note a lower "chuk". Swamp Sparrow more reddish, larger in size, white throat with buffy chest, (winter): gray central crown stripe. Call note -metallic "chip".

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Saw 3 calling, singing Sedge Wrens in sedge marshes south and north of Galveston, Tx. in April 1993 and April 1995.

Have seen many Marsh Wrens and a dozen or so Swamp Sparrows.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

- a) *Before: National Geo. - No. Am. Birds*  
at time of observation: *was using Sedge Wren vocalizations tape Cornell Lab*
- b) *after observation: National Geo. / Audubon Master Guide to Birding. / (Confirmed I.D.) " Encyclopedin.*

This report was written from <sup>notes</sup> reports made during \_\_\_\_\_, after observation X from memory X

Date and time report was written: Dec. 26, 1996

Reporting observer: KARLEEN SCHOFIELD Signature: Karleen Schofield

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Return to:  
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