

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐

UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

CFO-ORC FILE # 1998-104

ACCEPTED (7-0)

rec'd 5-16-98v

Species: Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)

Date: 10 May 1998

Number seen: one

Sex: unknown

Plumage: Basic

Locality: Two Buttes Reservoir

Elevation: 4230'

Nearest town: Springfield

County: Baca

Time observed: about 10:00 MDT

Duration of observation: about 10 seconds in two views

Description: Bill and John Prather (?) had heard and seen a Sedge Wren at this site below the dam early on this morning. Many people were looking for it and Vic Zerbi managed to refind it. I managed to see it twice, once poorly for just a couple seconds and once well for about 7-8 seconds. The bird was a small light brown bird with a short tail and a real skulker. It stayed in a particular patch of shrubs (I don't know what kinds, but they were on dry ground and were interconnected by grape (?) vines - with an adjacent stretch of sedge meadow -- no cattails) while about 15-20 people surrounded the patch to attempt to see it. The bill was relatively long, thin, slightly decurved, and bicolored -- dark upper mandible, yellowish lower mandible. The brown crown was streaked thinly with blackish as was the back. The back also had a few thin and vague whitish streaks. There was a faint pale superciliary and the throat was pale. The underparts were basically creamy and unmarked. The wings were brown with some dark markings, but I did not note the exact pattern. Though I didn't see it well, the tail was very short.

I did not note the auriculars on this bird - I didn't describe them in my notes and I don't recall noting them. However, since I did note a pale superciliary, the auriculars must have been dark enough to contrast with the superciliary and make it stand out in my mind. There were no nearby birds for comparison, but the bird was obviously very small, nearly kinglet or small warbler-sized.

Similar species eliminated by description: The only real problem, once we eliminate sparrows on bill shape and tail length, would be Marsh Wren, which can be readily eliminated by the streaked crown, lack of a strong, white superciliary, lack of strong, white streaks on the back, and the lack of strong rufous tones to the upperparts. The habitat, though not definitive, certainly more strongly supports Sedge Wren than it does Marsh Wren.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): I heard none.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen in excess of 50 Sedge Wrens and 100s of Marsh Wrens.

Light conditions: sun behind me and to my left

Optical equipment used: Zeiss 7x42

Distance, and how estimated: estimated closest distance at 12 feet

Other observers who saw the bird with you: _____ Rutherford (I cannot recall his first name) was standing next to me when the bird provided the best show. Vic Zerbi and a large number of CFO conventioners (>9) also saw the bird during this time.

Other observers who saw the bird independently: The Prathers, Joey Kellner, Chris Wood, Norm Erthal, John Vanderpoel among others.

If photographed, type of equipment and film:

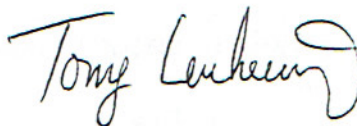
List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: none

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature:



Address: Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: This report was written on 12 May 1998 from field notes written approximately three hours post-sighting.

rec'd 5-20-98 ✓

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

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UNUSUAL RECORD

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

Species: SEdge WREN
(Vernacular Name)Cistothorus platensis
(Scientific Name)Date(s): 10 MAY 1998Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: _____Locality: BELOW TWO BUTTES RESERVOIR Elevation: _____Nearest town: TWO BUTTES County: BACATime(s) observed: ≈ 1030 amDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): ≈ 15-20 SECONDS, THEN 5-10 SECONDS

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

Peter Gredler - ? SEVERAL OTHERS FROM CFO FIELD TRIPTony Leukering 303-659-4348

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

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

I viewed bird from west, light coming into shrubby from right (south). Strong light, good views first time, second time, viewed from east light was less good.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): BRUNNEN LOMB 8x COMPACT BINS.Distance, and how measured: ≈ 2 meters, ocular estimate, then about 3 metersIf photographed, type of equipment and film: N/AWho else photographed the bird? UNKNOWN

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

SKULKING IN THE CAT TAIL EDGE, MOVING UP INTO SHRUBBY. RESPONDED TO A TAP OF ITS SONG. CAME OUT IN THE CLEAR FOR PETER AND I AT THE BARBED WIRE FENCE. VIC WAS MOVING IT UP TO THE WAITING GROUPDescribe 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: FROM MY FIELD NOTES:"SHORT BROWN TAIL, BLACK BACK AND CROWN, WITH FINE WHITE STRIPES."

Description (continued):

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

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

BIRD ON UPPER EDGE OF CATTAILS, MOVING INTO NEARBY SHRUBS BY THE TIME I GOT TO GROUP.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

SONG IDENTIFIED SPECIES FOR GROUP. MARSH WREN WAS MY ONLY OTHER CONCERN, BUT THIS BIRD HAD FINE WHITE STRIPES IN CROWN AND ON BACK, UNLIKE MARSH WREN'S BROWN CAP AND BOLD WHITE BACK STRIPES. WINTER WREN IS NOT STRIPED ON BACK.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? HAVE SEEN IN TEXAS AND LOUISIANA. NOT A LOT OF EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER. HAVE BANNED MARSH WREN BEFORE AND PHOTOED FOR CBO FILES.

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

- a) at time of observation: NONE
b) after observation: NGS GUIDE, MASTER GUIDE (POOR PHOTOS)

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation _____ from memory _____

Date and time report was written: 25 MAY 1998 7PM

Reporting observer: LARRY L. NORRIS Signature: Larry L. Norris

Address: 1154 SOUTH VANCOUVER WAY
LAKEWOOD CO 80228-3656

Return to:
Bill Prather
C.F.O. Official Records Committee
13810 WCR 1
Longmont, Colorado 80504

MARK JANOS
10 SEPULCRUM
PUEBLO CO 81001

Date: Mon, 1 Jun 1998 16:52:05 -0500 (CDT)
From: John Prather <jprathe@comp.uark.edu>
To: John Prather <jprathe@comp.uark.edu>
Subject: Re: Sedge Wren Report

> > CFO-ORC-FILE# 1998-104

> >
> >

> > COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

> >

> > Results: _____

> > rec'd 6-5-98 ✓

> >

> > Species: Sedge Wren
> > (Common Name)

Cistothorus platensis
(Scientific Name)

> >

> > Dates: May 10, 1998

> >

> > Number of birds seen: 1

> >

> > Sex: ??

> >

> > Plumage: Adult, presumably Alternate

> >

> > Locality: Two Buttes Reservoir

> >

> > Nearest town: Springfield

> >

> > County: Prowers

> >

> > Time observed: 8:00 A. M.

> >

> > Duration of observation: 10 Minutes

> >

> > Other observers with you: Jameson Chace

> >

> > Other observers who saw the bird independently: Several

> >

> > Light conditions: Sunny, but bird mainly skulking in shadows

> >

> > Optical equipment: Leica 10x42 Binoculars

> >

> > Distance from bird: 5 meters

> >

> > Describe the bird's behavior:

Primarily skulking low in shrubs and grasses along edge
of stream. Singing regularly.

> > Describe the bird (what you actually saw):

> >

> Small wren. About house wren size. mainly brown. Back black streaked
> with white. Head darkish on top, face buffy-gray without strong markings,
> throat whitish. Underparts whitish with buff sides and flanks
> Tail very short, barred thinly with black. Wings brown barred with thin
> streaks of black.

> > Describe the bird's song and call if heard:

> >

> A short series of chips, trills and buzzy notes. Softer and less variable
> than that of Marsh Wren. Not as bubbly and with buzzy notes and trills
> that are not heard in the song of house wren.

> >

> Call was only heard once. A pair of soft warblerlike chips.

>
 > > Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
 >
 > In thick brush (skunkbush etc) along edge of grassy slough.
 >
 > > How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:
 >
 > Eliminated from house wren by buffy face, and black back streaked with
 > white. Eliminated from Marsh Wren by lack of strong facial markings and
 > short tail. Song and call distinctive.
 >
 > > What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:
 >
 > I have seen marsh wrens and house wrens often in many places in the U. S.
 > I am familiar with sedge wrens primarily from Arkansas, where they are
 > uncommon in migration and have seen them about a dozen times.
 >
 > > List books if they helped in your identification:
 >
 > none were used to make the I. D.
 >
 > > This report was written from memory.
 > >
 > > Reporting observer: John H. Prather
 >
 > > Signature: John H. Prather
 >
 > > Address: 1530 N. Garland Street
 > Fayetteville, AR 72701.
 > >
 > >
 > > Mail to: Mark Janos, 10 Sedum Court, Pueblo, CO 81001.
 >
 >

John H. Prather
 Dept. of Biological Sciences
 601 Science-Engineering Building
 University of Arkansas
 Fayetteville, AR 72701

(501) 575-7539

"...his mind is not for rent
 to any god or government.
 Always hopeful, yet discontent.
 He knows changes aren't permanent,
 but change is."

Rush

"Tom Sawyer"