

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-11-12 23:26:55
Observer's Name	Michael David
E-mail	michaeldavid@gmail.com
Observer's Address	United States
Species (Common Name)	Rock Wren
Species (Scientific Name)	Salpinctes obsoletus
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	10-03-2018 7:50 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48906646
County	Montgomery
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Lafayette Hill
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Dixon Meadow Preserve
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.099552, -75.240920
Habitat	Mostly dry drainage path lined with large rocks
Distance to bird	15 m
Description	Fairly large wren with long bill. Back and crown a slightly brownish gray, lightly speckled with white. Darker eyeline; pale supercilium and cheeks. Underparts pale on throat and upper breast, with buff-colored wash getting stronger towards lower belly and flanks. Undertail coverts pale with thin dark stripes. Tail more brownish than back with a dark band towards tip.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Foraging low around the rocks, bobbing up and down when perched.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Other possible wrens in the area (House, Winter, Carolina, Marsh, Sedge) are all smaller and none have a gray back and crown among other plumage details.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes, diagnostic photos taken

Supporting evidence (check
all that apply)

Photograph
Video

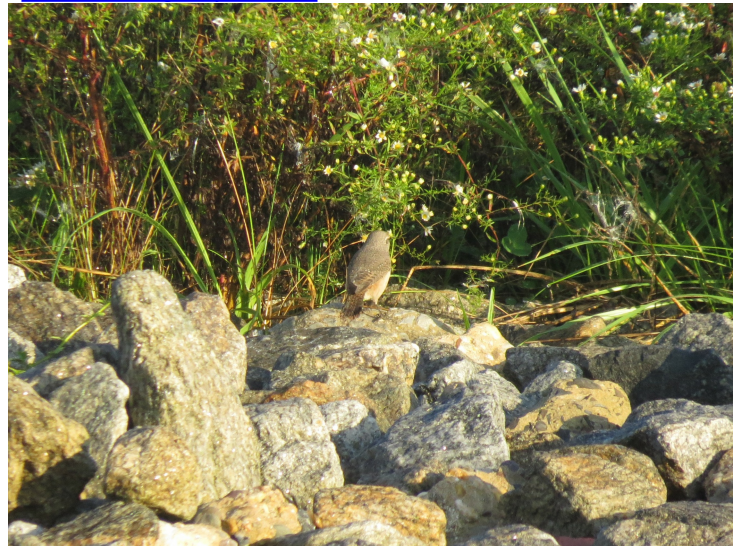
Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[Rock Wren, Montgomery, PA 2.JPG](#)



[Rock Wren, Montgomery, PA 3.JPG](#)



[Rock Wren, Montgomery, PA 4.JPG](#)



[Rock Wren, Montgomery, PA.JPG](#)

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-10-04 10:15:25
Observer's Name	Richard Bell
E-mail	birdrcb2@verizon.net
Phone	215-489-8545
Observer's Address	2370 Rosemont Terrace Furlong PA 18925 United States
Names of additional observers	August Mirabella
Species (Common Name)	Rock Wren
Species (Scientific Name)	Salpinctes obsoletus
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	10-04-2018 8:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Montgomery
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Whitemarsh, PA
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Dixon Meadow Preserve
Habitat	rocky area in a field
Distance to bird	10 meters
Viewing conditions	cloudy
Optical equipment used	Bausch and Lomb 10x42 binoculars, Nikon D5200 camera with 300mm f/4 lens
Description	dark line through eye, partial white eye ring, buffy line behind eye, slightly fine-streaked breast tan belly back to vent
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	moving actively among the rocks searching for insects

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

yes, photo

After

Sibley - Field Guide to the Birds Second Edition

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



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[DSC_0029.jpg](#)

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PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-10-04 17:27:40
Observer's Name	Ben Dziedzic
E-mail	bdziedzic@penncharter.com
Phone	2154359712
Observer's Address	432 W Stafford St Philadelphia PA 19144 United States
Species (Common Name)	Rock Wren
Species (Scientific Name)	Salpinctes obsoletus
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	10-02-2018 6:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48896464
County	Montgomery County, PA
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Flourtown
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Dixon Meadow Preserve
Habitat	rocky drainage leading into wetland
Distance to bird	10-40 feet
Viewing conditions	clear conditions, dusk
Optical equipment used	Eagle Optics Ranger ED 8X42, Iphone 6
Description	The bird was out in the open, on the rocks by the trail and then over by the water. Upright posture. Good looks in binoculars revealed pale streaking on the chest, orange flanks, orange/rufous patch on the rump was particularly notable, pale white line through and just above the eye, spotted back.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	The bird foraged on the rocks exclusively - very seldom retreating into (or very far into) vegetation. The bird was 'bouncing' the whole time - which was confirmed as indicative of the species by field guides. Bouncing accompanied by vocalization (see video and audio).

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	Clearly a wren, but behavior as well as size, field marks seemed to rule out any local wrens. The field marks noted in the description above distinguished it from other possible wren species.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	<p>I spent about fifteen or twenty minutes watching this bird with my binoculars, but only had an iphone for photos and video.</p> <p>However, it got very close eventually, and I took a number of photos and videos with my cell phone. Movement and short vocalizations were recorded on the video.</p> <p>Thanks to Brian Henderson for his help with isolating and amplifying audio from the video (attached below).</p>
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes, because of clear field marks, the fact that the bird is not easily confused with other wrens, and distinctive bouncing. Confirmed by many observers who descended on the Preserve.
During	Audubon field guide app
After	Sibley Guide to Birds, Second Edition
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Photograph Video Audio

Upload images, audio, video
or drawings

[IMG_4316.MOV](#)
[IMG_4317.MOV](#)



[IMG_4318 \(1\).JPG](#)
[IMG_4320.MOV](#)
[IMG_4320_mod.wav](#)



[IMG_4319.JPG](#)

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PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-10-11 17:45:43
Observer's Name	Mike Fialkovich
E-mail	mpfial@verizon.net
Phone	7246967558
Observer's Address	805 BEULAH RD PITTSBURGH PA 15235 United States
Species (Common Name)	Rock Wren
Species (Scientific Name)	Salpinctes
Subspecies (if known)	obsoletus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Unknown.
Observation Date and Time	10-06-2018 10:20 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49066043
County	Montgomery
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Layfayetteville, PA
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Dixon Meadow Preserve
Habitat	Rocky drainage ditch
Distance to bird	Approximately 10 yards but varied.
Viewing conditions	Excellent due to close views.
Optical equipment used	Leica Ultravid 10X42 binoculars
Description	Medium size wren about the size of a Carolina Wren. Gray-brown above (crown, back, wings and tail) with some small light mottling or spots on the back. Dark line through the eye. Tail gray brown with buffy bars, some buffy patches in the primaries. Rump rusty. Throat and breast dull white with some fine brown/gray streaking. From the belly to the undertail the color was buffy. Bill and legs black.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	The bird appeared in a rocky drainage ditch. It would appear from the dense vegetation on either side of the ditch which was a few feet wide. It would hop around the rocks, disappearing from view at times as it explored the crevasses. Quite active as it moved about. It never called or sang.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	No other local wrens look like this. House Wren is much smaller and nearly always holds the tail cocked. Winter Wren is much darker brown and tiny. This bird never cocked its tail while in view. Carolina Wren is much richer in color, warm brown rather than cold gray/brown and buffy below entirely. Also the Carolina Wren has a bold white supercilium.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	This bird was observed and photographed by many observers for three days prior to my observation.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	Yes. I knew it was there and went to see it. Plus I've seen this species in California, Colorado, New Mexico and Washington.
During	None.
After	Sibley Guide to Birds, National Geographic Guide.
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Photograph

Upload images, audio, video
or drawings



[Rock Wren, Dixon Meadow Preserve, Montgomery County, PA 10-6-2018
\(3\)A.jpg](#)



[Rock Wren, Dixon Meadow Preserve, Montgomery County, PA 10-6-2018
\(4\).jpg](#)

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