

625-01 - 1996

Mercer

School of Forest Resources
302 Forest Resources Lab
Penn State Univ.
University Park, PA 16802
December 13, 1996

Dear Marty,

I am writing to inform you of a few bird sightings I made between September and 30 November 1996 in Mercer County. I am a new graduate student at Penn State (with Margaret Brittingham) and was employed this past fall in a research project examining bird use of restored wetlands in northwestern PA. I was stationed at the Pymatuning Lab of Ecology, but had three study sites in Mercer Co. on State Game Lands and private property. I am from NJ and have been a very active birder for over 15 years.

I hope you find these few records of interest. Please let me know if you have any questions. I am somewhat slow in responding to e-mail (pgr2@psuvm.psu.edu) as I am unable to check it often, but can also be reached by phone if needed (814-861-7249). I will be in NJ from 17 Dec to 4 Jan. Thanks and happy Holidays.

Sincerely,



**Note: "SGL" = State Game Lands.

✓ Black Scoter - female seen on small pond on 11/20 near Milledgeville, northeast Mercer Co.

Cooper's Hawk - one seen on 9/4 near Milledgeville, northeast Mercer Co.; (2) Imm. seen at Bugher property (see directions below).

* Sedge Wren - (2) seen on 10/25 on Bugher property (private), south of West Middlesex, in se part of county. This species was found breeding on this site during the past summer. If you haven't heard of this info, you may want to write to Margaret Brittingham/Scott Cashen at my same address. Additional information on my sighting is given below.

White-eyed Vireo - one on 9/27 at Bugher property. Few seen this fall.

✓ Palm Warbler - (5) on 10/10 at Bugher property.

✓ Fox Sparrow - first on 11/4 at SGL 294.

Sedge Wren - Two birds seen on 26 October 1996 on Bugher property (private), south of West Middlesex, in southeastern Mercer County. This species was found breeding on this site during the past summer. If you haven't received information on breeding at this site, you may wish to write to Margaret Brittingham or Scott Cashen at 320 Forest Resources Lab (same address as above).

Birds seen in an large open wet field with grasses, tall weeds, and rushes at the end of a large man-made wetland. Both of these wrens were small, brownish backed birds with paler underparts, fairly short tails, thin bills, and skulking habits. Upperparts were mixture of light browns with fine whitish streaking on the crown and center of back. Whitish superciliary was indistinct. Underparts were buffy, especially in flanks, and undertail coverts. Seemed less buffy (paler) in throat and center of breast. Flight appeared weak with rapid fluttering wing beats. Song heard repeatedly from one individual... a quiet "cut, cut, cut " followed by a varied, chattering series of notes, trailing off in volume.

These two birds lacked solid brown crown, blackish in center of back with bold white streaking, whitish underparts, and more obvious superciliary of Marsh Wren. Also, song different from Marsh Wren.

The two birds were each observed for approx 2 and 5 minutes each at 10-20 meters distance. Lighting excellent. No other observers, but species is known to breed at this site (Summer 1996). Although I am more familiar with the Marsh Wren, I have observed Sedge Wrens on many occasions in states such as Texas, Arkansas, Minnesota, and North Dakota.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)

Date of Sighting: 25 October 1996 to 26 October 1996

Location: WEST MIDDLESEX

County: MERCER

Observer(s): Paul Rodewald

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Paul Rodewald

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

8-16-97