

625-05-1997

SEDGE WREN

Cistothorus platensis

Location: Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pa

Date: May 17, 1997

Time: 1:30 to 1:45 PM

Weather: Cloudy (stratus), wind northwesterly to about 10 mph

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular

Viewing distance: As close as 20 feet

Details of sighting & description: On the west end of Sidewalk Trail I found a Sedge Wren. It was skulking close to the ground in a large area of sedges with scattered blueberry and buttonbush. I easily approached the bird and had it in good view for a few seconds at a time as it moved in and out of patches of sedges. It sang and scolded almost continuously for about fifteen minutes before suddenly disappearing into a dense patch of dead grass. I did not see or hear it again after it went into hiding.

The Wrens song went something like this; chit chit chit chit chi-chi-chi-chi-chi. The song began with at least two spaced "chits" or as many as five spaced "chits" before going into the series of "chis." The wren was about the size of a Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) or perhaps slightly smaller. It held its tail cocked at an upward angle and usually held its body tilted forward as it hopped among the grasses and bushes. The upperside was a medium warm brown with a slightly darker mantle and crown. The mantle and crown were lightly and finely streaked with white. Marsh Wrens have dark brown unstreaked crowns. The supercilium was white and not as distinctive as in Marsh Wren. The wings, tail, and rump were heavily barred with darker shades of brown. The bill was not as long as in Marsh Wren and was slightly curved downward. The throat and upper breast were a dirty white becoming buff on the belly, flanks, and undertail coverts. Marsh Wrens are mostly white underneath with buff only on the flanks.

This is only the second one I have seen and heard anywhere.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)

Date of Sighting: 17 May 1997 to 17 May 1997

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

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					
P. Schwalbe			X					
K. Parkes			X	X				
R. Ickes			X					
P. Hess			X					
J. McWilliams			X					
T. Floyd			X					
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

4-19-99