

625-01-1998

Bucks

**Species:** Sedge Wren

**Observer:** August Mirabella

1443 Wheaton Ln.

N. Wales, Pa. 19454

**Date:** 10/25/98 8:00am-10:30am EST. **Location:** Peace Valley Park, New Britain Twp., Bucks Co.

**Conditions:** Bright sun. Seen with sun at my back.

**Distance:** Multiple sightings at 3 to 20 feet away.

**Habitat:** First seen in short one to two feet tall dry "foxtail" grass between the edge of a plowed field and large thickets (mostly Multiflora Rose). Also, in the transition from field to thickets, there are patches of goldenrods, etc., and more importantly a drainage ditch runs parallel to the field edge about 50 ft. from the first sighting. In two areas adjacent to the ditch, approx. 100 ft. apart, short wet meadow vegetation exists. One area closest to the first sighting is approx. 50 ft. by 25 ft. and the second is smaller. The bird was seen in both these spots but preferred the larger.

**Behavior:** The bird was mostly concealed in the weeds but would appear as it passed from clump to clump. At one point, it disappeared about 20 ft. away and appeared in a clump by my feet ten minutes later. In that ten minutes, there was no sign of any motion. Apparently, the bird walked without causing the weeds to move. Other times the weeds were seen moving as the bird moved. At one point, the bird preened out in the open and on two occasions, as it passed from one area to another, it flew up into the rose bushes for a few seconds.

**Description:** The key marks which differed from the Marsh Wren, were a streaky cap, buffy/cinnamon undertail coverts extending up the lower belly and lower flanks, and dirty buffy white eye stripe. It's smaller size, smaller bill, off white throat with darker breast, barred tail, and heavily streaked back were also noted. The bird only gave a clean single chip call about four times. This call was nothing like the harsh loud call notes of the Marsh Wren. The bird remained in the wetland habitat and was seen by several other birders in the afternoon.

# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*)

Date of Sighting: 25 October 1998 to 25 October 1998

Location: PEACE VALLEY PARK

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): August Mirabella

Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: August Mirabella

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman			X					
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes			X					
J. McWilliams			X					
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
TOTALS			6					1
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/0/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

1/14/01