



11/4/04

# PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee  
613 Howard Ave.  
West Chester, PA 19380  
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

625-01-2004

\*\*\*\*\*

SPECIES (common and scientific name) SEDBE WREN (CISTOTHORUS PLATENSIS)  
Subspecies, if known \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 2 SEX(ES) MALE/FEMALE

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): BOTH ADULTS IN BREEDING PLUMAGE

DATE OF OBSERVATION 5-31-04 - 7-22-04 TIME OVER 20 SIGHTINGS, VARIOUS TIMES OF DAY

LOCATION (city, borough, township) HOPEWELL TWP, SOUTHEASTERN YORK CO. PA

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) FORMER YORK CO. SANITARY LANDFILL SITE

## OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name RANDY PHILLIPS  
Address 4146 SHAFFERS CHURCH RD.  
City COLEN ROCK State PA ZIP 17327  
e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) 717-235-6043

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): DAVID WILDASIN, DEANNE HOFFMAN, PETER ROBINSON, DAN BRAUNING

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) 30 ACRE UNMOWED HAYFIELD COMPRISED OF 50% TIMOTHY HAY / 50% ORCHARD GRASS. FIELD PART OF A MUCH LARGER (200+ ACRES) GRASSLAND AREA.

DISTANCE TO BIRD 100 YARDS TO AS CLOSE AS 4 FEET

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) VARIOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS - POURING RAIN TO CLEAR SKIES. MORNING, DAY AND EVENING SIGHTINGS.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED BOSCH & LOMBE ELITE 10 X 42

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): BIRD FIRST IDENTIFIED BY VOICE ON 5-31-04. OVER NEXT 7 WEEKS HAD VERY GOOD LOOKS AT BOTH MALE & FEMALE. SEXES SIMILAR EXCEPT VOICE. BIRD WAS SMALL, 4-5 INCHES, APPROX. SIZE AND SHAPE OF HOUSE WREN. BILL SHORT. WHITISH EYEBROW EVIDENT. UPPER PARTS MOSTLY BROWN. DISTINCT WHITE STREAKING ON BACK AND CROWN. THROAT WHITISH. UNDERPARTS BUFFY. WINGS SMALL. FLIGHT VERY WEAK. TAIL SHORT AND HELD ERECT.

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) MALE WAS EASILY HEARD, BUT OTHERWISE NOT EASILY OBSERVED. WOULD OFTEN SING CONTINUOUSLY FROM CONCEALED PERCH. RARELY PERCHED NEAR TOP OF GRASS. BEST OBSERVED WHEN FLYING JUST ABOVE GRASS FROM PERCH TO PERCH. FLIGHT WEAK AND ALMOST FLUTTERING. DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THIS BIRD MIGRATES ANY DISTANCE AFTER SEEING IT FLY. FEMALE WAS EVEN MORE SECRETIVE. (CONT)

VOCALIZATIONS MALE WOULD SING ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY AT TIMES, UP TO 10 TIMES/MINUTE, ESPECIALLY MORNING AND EVENING. MIDDAY WOULD HAVE PERIODS OF SINGING INTERSPERSED WITH SILENCE. MALE WOULD ALTERNATE BETWEEN TWO DISTINCTIVE SONGS. PRIMARY SONG A TWO NOTE "DIK DIK" FOLLOWED BY A DRY RATTLE LASTING 3-5 SECONDS. (CONT)

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph ☒ Video recording \_\_\_\_\_ Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name RANDY PHILLIPS

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition \_\_\_\_\_

If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known \_\_\_\_\_

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) VOICE, HABITAT AND DETAILED STUDY.

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: MALE SEEN WHEN OBSERVED SINGING ON TERRITORY 20+ TIMES OVER A SEVEN WEEK PERIOD. DISCOVERED THERE WAS A PAIR ON 6/8/04 WHEN DELANE HOFFMAN AND I WERE WATCHING THE MALE SINGING. APPROX. 50 METERS AWAY FROM MALE, HEARD THE FEMALE CALL, AT WHICH POINT THE MALE FLEW FROM HIS PERCH DIRECTLY TO THAT SPOT. ON 6/20/04, OBSERVED MALE CARRYING NESTING MATERIAL NEAR SPOT WHERE FEMALE WAS HEARD CALLING. ON 7/13/04, WATCHED MALE CARRYING NESTING MATERIAL AT ANOTHER LOCATION (APPROX. 30 METERS AWAY FROM PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED SITE) (CONT)  
(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES NONE - LIFE BIRD

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) POSITIVE. SONG DISTINCTIVE. MANY CLOSE UP VIEWS ALLOWED FOR CAREFUL STUDY. NESTS UNIQUE.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation \_\_\_\_\_

After observation PETERSON SONGS OF EASTERN BIRDS / SIBLEY'S FIELD GUIDE

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 11/4/04

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Randy Phillips

625-01-2004

BEHAVIOR

BEHAVIOR WAS ALMOST MOUSE-LIKE. OBSERVED AT CLOSE RANGE SEVERAL TIMES SLINKING CAUTIOUSLY THROUGH GRASS. RARELY SAW FEMALE FLYING ABOVE TOP OF GRASS.

VOICE

SECONDARY SONG WAS THE SAME TWO NOTE "DIK DIK" FOLLOWED BY A MUCH MORE MUSICAL TRILL, SOUNDING SOMEWHAT LIKE A TINY BELL RINGING. VOICE WAS LOUD, EASILY HEARD AT 100+ METERS.

FEMALES CALL WAS A TWO NOTE "DIK DIK" SIMILAR IN QUALITY TO MALE. AT CLOSE RANGE, FEMALE ALSO GAVE A LOW, GUTTERAL "BRRR BRRR", POSSIBLY A AGITATION CALL.

DISCUSSION

AND WAS ABLE TO LOCATE AND PHOTOGRAPH ONE OF THE MALES "DUMMY" NESTS. LAST OBSERVED PAIR ON 7/22/04. ON 8/20/04, LOCATED USED, LINED NEST NEAR ORIGINAL SPOT OF CALLING FEMALE.

# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Sedge Wren (Cistothorus platensis)

Date of Sighting: 31 May 2004 to 22 July 2004

Location: HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

County : YORK

Observer(s): Randy Phillips m.obs.

Date of Submission: 2004

Submitted by: Randy Phillips

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

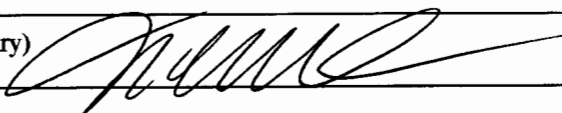
Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut								
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
<del>R. Leberman</del> AGONIA	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	6							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

6/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

7/2/04