



UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Species (common & scientific): Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*

Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex(es):** ?

Age(s) & Plumage(s): Adult I think

Date Seen: 9/26 & 9/27 **Time: Approx.** 11 AM on 9/26; 7:30 AM 9/27

Where Seen (Town/County): New Britain Twp., Bucks Co.

Exact Location (Park, Road, Lake): Peace Valley Park

Observer Reporting:

Name: August Mirabella

Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454

E-mail: augustmirabella@aol.com

Telephone (optional): 215-368-0594

Other Observers (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you): None

Distance to Bird: <10 feet

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): Cloudy 9/26 but bright; clear 9/27 with sun coming up at my back. Saw several times briefly on 9/26 but very well for one stretch of about 30 sec. or more. Saw it only briefly on 9/27.

Optical Equipment Used: 7X42 Zeiss Bins

Habitat: Dry lake mud flats that have grown up in short weeds, e.g. smartweed mainly, some sedges, and at the edge existing purple loosestrife, swamp mallow, stiltgrass, and other plants.

Description (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage: When I flushed it, I saw that it was a small wren size & shape, relatively light in color, streaked on the upper parts, and heard the clean chip note that I have heard in previous sightings at this time of year. It gave this note one at a time and infrequently. Thus, I knew it was a Sedge Wren before I got a good look at it. When I did get a long look, all the field marks were easily seen: black, brown and white streaked back; light brown & blackish barred wings with white markings; brownish cap with white streaks; light lore and supercilium with dark line extending through the eye below the light supercilium; a pale throat becoming buffier/chestnut progressing toward the lower belly and flanks; and a light brown/dark brown barred tail.

Behavior (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing): It was flushed by accident from foot high weeds, moved a short distance and disappeared. I pished it up again to a swamp mallow, and then to thicker edge shrubs. This is when it sat for long clear looks. Then it went down and was not seen again until late afternoon at the same spot by several others.

Vocalizations: Clean one note chip given when flushed and when I pished it up. Note was infrequent and only given a total of a few times.

Supporting Evidence if Any (include with report): Photo attached taken by Devich Farbotnick 9/26

Separation from Similar Species (How you eliminated others): The multiple features described above separate it from other small wrens (House, Winter, Marsh), particularly the streaked black, brown, and white back, streaked cap, barred wings, combined with the buffy/chestnut lower belly and flanks. Marsh Wren is the only other with a boldly marked eye line and light supercilium but has a solid much darker cap and is much darker overall.

Discussion (Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it): Several other birders saw it later in the day and it was photographed.

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species: Have only seen a few times but this is the third at this time of year locally and each time it has given the same chip note..

Are you positive of your ID? (Why or why not): Yes, had a great look at it and saw all the marks.

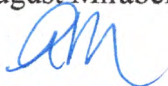
References:

During Observation: None

After Observation: Sibley's; photo by Farbotnik

Date of report: 9/29/05

Signature of Observer: August Mirabella



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Sedge Wren (Cistothorus platensis)

Date of Sighting: 26 September 2005 to 27 September 2005

Location: PEACE VALLEY PARK

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik

Date of Submission: 2006

Submitted by: August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik

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								
A. Guarente	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
J. Heller	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	6							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 6/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

7/24/06