



62504-2005

UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

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

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

Age(s) & Plumage(s): ??

Date Seen: 10/3/2005 **Time:** Approx. 9 AM

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

Exact Location (Park, Road, Lake): Peace Valley Nature Center, 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): Bob Shaffer saw the bird first.

Distance to Bird: <10 feet

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): Bright sun at our backs

Optical Equipment Used: 7X42 Zeiss Bins

Habitat: Edge of a large field that was mowed to about 6" high. The bird was near the border of the mowed area and large area that was not mowed that was mostly weeds of about two to three feet high. It was about 15 feet from a large patch of 3' sedges mixed with other weeds. There were also some small shrubs.

Description (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage: This bird was oblivious to us and gave us a close range few minutes of viewing. After having seen the Sedge Wren only a week before, it was immediately obvious that this was another. This bird was about 400 yds. from the previous sighting of 9/26 & 9/27. Two cold fronts in the past week would suggest to me that this is a second bird but of course, who knows for sure. I thought it wasn't quite as brightly colored on the lower flanks and belly.

We saw a small wren and 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 more buffy/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): The bird was staying surprisingly in the open for at least three minutes or more, foraging in weeds and small shrubs. Then it went down and was not seen again until late afternoon within 50 feet of the same spot.

Vocalizations: Clean one note chip.

Supporting Evidence if Any (include with report): Photo attached taken by Devich Farbotnick 10/3/2005

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): Devich Farbotnik found and video taped the bird in late afternoon.

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species: Have only seen a few times but this is the fourth 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: Photo by Farbotnik

Date of report: 10/7/2005

Signature of Observer: August Mirabella

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Sedge Wren (Cistothorus platensis)

Date of Sighting: 3 October 2005 to 3 October 2005

Location: PEACE VALLEY PARK

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): August Mirabella et al.

Date of Submission: 2005

Submitted by: August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

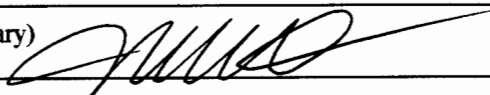
Recording: No

| Member | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A | Class IV-B | Class IV-C | Class V | Abstain |
|-------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
| R. Wiltraut | X | | | | | | | |
| A. Guarente | X | | | | | | | |
| P. Guris | X | | | | | | | |
| J. Stanley | X | | | | | | | |
| E. Witmer | X | | | | | | | |
| J. Heller | X | | | | | | | |
| M. Sharp | X | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 7 | | | | | | | |
| DECISION | X | | | | | | | |

Comments:

7/6

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 7/24/06