

Documentation for the PORC

625-07-2006

Species: Sedge Wren

Name: Cameron Rutt

Address: PO Box 223, Blooming Glen, PA 18911

Email: cr1193@messiah.edu

Phone Number: 215-767-0298

Other Observers: Ken Reiker

Location: Pine Run County Park, Bucks County. This park is adjacent to Peace Valley County Park and is located just outside of Doylestown.

Date and Length of time observed: October 14, 2006. I found the bird around 9:00 AM and upon leaving at 9:15 AM the bird was still present. However, it was not always visible the entire time as it often disappeared in the thick vegetation.

Optics: The bird was seen through my Swarovski 8.5 by 42 EL binoculars.

Habitat and Behavior: This fall, there was a large stretch of field along the lake that was left unmowed. I am not sure what all of the plant components were, but I recognized goldenrod, foxtail grass, and mullein among the thick vegetation. The field was about thigh height (2.5-3') and was loaded with a variety of sparrows (mostly Swamp and Savannah Sparrows). There was even a Marsh Wren in the vicinity which I located about 10 minutes before viewing the Sedge Wren.

I first detected the bird as it took a couple of short flights in the field. After getting a good, but brief, look at the bird, I called Ken Reiker over to the area where the bird had last disappeared (in a patch of vegetation with a lot of foxtail grass). After Ken made some "pshh" noises and chips the bird popped up out of the vegetation and preened in full view. After a bit, it dropped down into the thick vegetation and appeared low on the other side of the clump before skulking away and vanishing again. After a couple of minutes, we observed a tiny bird fly towards us at the edge of the field. During the next 5-10 minutes, Ken kept this inquisitive bird interested by making either a harsh scolding noise or "pshh." The bird repeatedly came out into the open towards the top of the vegetation before dropping down to the ground, developing a familiar sequence. I presume it was likely feeding the entire time. A number of times, we were able to witness the typical straddling stance as it perched in the vegetation with one leg on two different stems.

Weather: As it was the morning after one of our first frosts of the season, it was quite chilly. However, at 9:00 AM it was probably well into the 40s and the morning fog had all but dissipated. There were generally clear skies and sun during the observation period.

Description: I was able to obtain excellent views as the bird was surprisingly curious and often fully exposed itself with the sun to our backs! The bird was very small with the typical wren shape: short tail, plump body, and relatively long, thin bill. The bill was bicolored with the lower mandible being orangish and the upper mandible dark. The face, flanks, and undertail coverts were all a rich buff with the deepest color restricted to the undertail coverts. An indistinct buffy breastband cut across the otherwise white and plain underparts. The entire upper side of the bird from its head to its tail was a heavily marked light brown. The darker crown was heavily flecked with small white stripes posteriorly but was unmarked at the forecrown. The nape was generally unmarked, or at least much less so than the rest of the upperparts. The mantle was the most boldly marked aspect of the bird with white streaks on a mostly black background. The rest of its wings, including the primaries, and the rectrices were all heavily barred with a darker brown. The dark eye stands out on the relatively plain face as its supercilium and lores were the same buffy

color as the flanks, etc. The supercilium was defined by a dark eyeline that extended back from the eye, but the lores were pale. Lastly, the Sedge Wren had pink legs.

Similar Species: The Marsh Wren would likely be the species that could cause the most confusion. It was especially neat that I had both birds within a 10 minute time span for an excellent comparison. The Sedge Wren lacked the rufous rump and scapulars, obvious white supercilium, and the distinct, separated streaking on the upper back which a Marsh Wren would exhibit. Also, this wren was generally marked with pale buff overall (especially on the underparts), had streaking on the crown, more barring to the wings, and had a shorter bill than a Marsh Wren.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Sedge Wren Cistothorus platensis

Date of Sighting: 14 October 2006 to 14 October 2006

Location: PINE RUN

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): Cameron Rutt, Ken Reiker

Date of Submission: 2006

Submitted by: Cameron Rutt

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

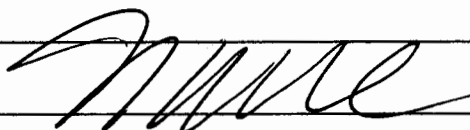
Recording: No

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					
T. Johnson			X					
J. Stanley								
E. Witmer			X					
J. Heller			X					
G. Malosh			X					
TOTALS			6					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

6/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

7/30/07