

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/24/00

Marsh Wren

1 Jan 1998

Brown's Lake, Woodbury Co., IA

*S. Dinsmore

IBL 68:62

Record Number: 98-06

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Stephen J. Dinsmore, 612 1/2 West Magnolia St., Fort Collins,
CO 80521 [6/13/98]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 68:62

Records Committee: IBL 69:90

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Description eliminates Sedge Wren.

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Marsh Wren

Number: 2

Location: Brown's L., Woodbury Co., IA

Habitat: marsh with open water

Date: 1 January 1998

Time: 8:10-8:55 a.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 ½ West Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird(s): none

Description of bird(s): I had just arrived at the warm water outflow at the southwest end of Brown's Lake when I heard a bird chipping in the cattails. I immediately recognized the bird as a Marsh Wren. Over the next 45 minutes, I observed at least two Marsh Wrens in this area. The single, hoarse chip note was distinctive and I recognized this species from my experience with winter Marsh Wrens in western Nebraska. I saw both birds, but only briefly. The shape was that of a wren: short tail, big head, stout body shape, and very short wings. I noted a bold white eyeline, clean white throat and underparts with some buff color on the vent, short, lightly barred tail, rufous wing coverts, dark crown, and a black mantle with fine white streaking.

Similar species and how eliminated: Both birds were clearly wrens. I would have been very surprised if they had been any wren species other than Marsh or Sedge in this habitat. The combination of a white eyeline, dark mantle with thin white stripes, white throat and breast, and dark crown eliminated other wrens, especially Sedge Wren. I also recognized the chip note as that of a Marsh Wren.

Previous experience with species: I am familiar with all of the wren species likely to occur in Iowa, including Marsh and Sedge Wrens. I have considerable experience with wintering Marsh Wrens in western Nebraska and was not at all surprised to see these birds.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent, although both birds afforded only brief views. Estimated viewing distance was less than 15m. I used 10x42 binoculars.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes written? none written

How long before this form completed? written 6 January 1998