

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/24/00

Marsh Wren
27 Dec 1997
New Lake, Woodbury Co., IA
*Huser
IBL 68:62, 86

Record Number: 97-65
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Bill Huser, 140 Oakmont Dr., S. Sioux City, NE 68776 [6/9/98]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 68:62
Records Committee: IBL 68:86

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, The unstreaked dark cap eliminates Sedge Wren.

A-D, This bird was both seen and heard.

A-D, Not unexpected at this time or location. Sedge Wren
eliminated adequately, although far less likely than Marsh Wren.

DOCUMENTATION FORM

For extraordinary bird sightings in X_IA, __NE or __SD

Species: Marsh Wren Number seen: 1, 2 add'l heard

Location: New Lake, Woodbury County, IA

Habitat: Cattail marsh with open water

Date: 12/27/97

Time: approx. 11:00AM

Bill Huser 140 Oakmont Dr., S. Sioux City, NE 68776

Others with me: Shawn Pfautsch

Others before/after me: none

Description: a small bird flitting and chipping from cattails above open water. The chip was dry and coarse, without any musical quality. I only saw the head of the perched bird: a solid black cap without streaks; a thin, slightly decurved, black bill; a white superciliary, throat and upper breast. A grayish brown cheek patch marked the face.

Similar species & differentiation: Call note and appearance indicated a wren. White superciliary eliminated House Wren and Winter Wren. Black cap eliminated those two plus Carolina and Bewick's Wren. The lack of crown streaking eliminated Sedge Wren. Habitat was a strong indicator of Marsh Wren and a detraction from all others except, perhaps, a Sedge Wren.

Disagreeing identifications: none; Shawn Pfautsch documenting independently.

Conditions - light, distance & optics: diffuse frontal lighting; naked eye; approx. 4 meters.

Previous experience with species: Seen annually in migration locally, as well as, almost annual breeding.

References: none before documentation.

Notes taken, with bird in view: mental notes at time of viewing.

Documented: 1/5/98

Bill Huser