

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Sedge Wren

Number: 1

Location: Lake Panorama, Guthrie Co., IA

Habitat: marshy spring near open water

Date: 6 December 1996

Time: 11:20-11:37 a.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

Others who saw bird: none

Description of bird(s): I was walking along an open seep when I heard a soft double-chip note from a grassy clump. When I squeaked, a small wren popped up. I initially assumed the bird would be a Marsh Wren, but I soon realized the bird was a Sedge Wren. The bill was thin, dark, and slightly decurved. The crown was dark with some white flecks. The bird had a thin white eyebrow and the rest of the face was brown. The underparts were warm buff, except that the throat was whiter. The mantle and wings were dark brown with some thin white streaks on the mantle. The tail was short and brown with some thin black barring.

Similar species and how eliminated: Marsh Wren is the only other species I considered. Marsh Wren has whiter underparts, and unmarked crown, a more conspicuous white eyeline, and a more distinct black and white pattern on the mantle.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with partly cloudy skies. Estimated viewing distance was 3m. I used 10x42 binoculars, although I could see the bird very well with the naked eye.

Previous experience with species: I have seen many Sedge and Marsh wrens in Iowa and other states in the Midwest.

References consulted: NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes made: none written

How long before this form completed: written 7 December 1996