

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Marsh Wren How many? 2Location? Coopers Marsh, Story CountyType of habitat? Small cattail Marsh 1-2 ft waterWhen? date(s): Oct 31, 1982 time: 6:30 AM to 7:30 AMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr Ames, Ia.others with you: Kraig Downs 3809 Toronto St. Ames Ia.

others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

2 birds

4-5 inches long

voice - trills and other rattles and noises. very active.

shape - wren-like tail sticking straight up. slightly decurved bill

back - rusty with some white streaks

wing - rusty patch and brown elsewhere

head - white stripe through eye - very prominent in both birds,

tail - held perpendicular to body - very long - white underneath with black patches,

belly - very white - extending to undertail area.

legs - brown short - only able to see from 1 leg joint down to feet.

Similar species and how eliminated:

sedge wren - lacks the white eye stripe - shorter tailDid any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Partly overcast - some sunlight - viewed at 7-15 ft. 7x35 binocularsPrevious experience with species and similar ones: seen and heard on many occasions

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? 1 day this form completed? 3 wks.

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