

Species: Short-billed Marsh Wren Kistothorus platensis  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 11-9-74 Time Bird Seen: 3:45 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Locality: Boulder Creek behind Ball Brothers Corp.

Nearest Town: Boulder County: Boulder

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Robert Andrews</u>		<u>756-5553</u>
<u>Scott O'Keefe</u>		

Optical Equipment: 7x35 Bushnell Binoc

Light Conditions: clearing partly cloudy

Distance from Bird (how measured): 3 ft at closest (estimate) too close to focus at times

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: adult

Overall Appearance and Size: a buffy-brown bird about 4 inches long

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): short, brown, acute

Legs (shape and color): pale

Crown and Forehead: forehead-brown crown-streaked Eye (color): dark

Nape: streaked Face: brown-buffy eye line Throat: whitish

Breast and Sides: Buffy

Belly and Flanks: Buffy - whitish in center of belly

Undertail Coverts: Buffy

Back: streaked with black + white

Wings: mottled brown

Underwings: —

Rump: brown Uppertail Coverts: Brown

Upper Side of Tail: brown barred with black

Under Side of Tail: —

Shape of Tail: square short held upright

Voice: one to two note chips, repeated, not overly loud

Behavior: very stealthy flying little - ran thru grass occasionally & providing excellent views of bird

Habitat: many marsh + meadow grasses - some dwarf willows areas wet

Prior Experience with this Species: none

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? long-billed Marsh Wren - solid brown crown white eye line more strongly streaked back white undertail coverts longer bill + tail protrudes more + cat tails Winter Wren Solid brown upperparts brownish throat barred flanks belly undertail coverts shorter tail more of a woodland bird

This Report was written from: Notes made during — after X observation; Memory —

Signed: Steve Sisson Street Address: 2955 Glenwood Dr #214

Date Prepared: 11-9-74 Town and State: Boulder Colo ZIP: 80301



Species: SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN  
 (Vernacular Name)

Gistothorus platensis  
 (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): November 9, 1974 Time Bird Seen: 3:30 PM to 4 PM

Locality: Along Boulder Creek near Commerce Street

Nearest Town: Boulder County: Boulder

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Optical Equipment: 7 X 50 binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Light Conditions: sun behind clouds and not shining on the bird

Distance from bird (how measured): A minimum estimated 3 feet

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: typical adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The bird generally stayed in the low, dense vegetation, never venturing more than 3 feet off the ground. Most of the time it stayed hidden, calling occasionally, but responded to squeaking by the observers, coming briefly into the open. Despite its preference for staying in cover, the bird was not really shy. The bird never flew, but when pressed too closely, it ran along the ground under the vegetation.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

The bird was quite small, with a plump body, very short tail that was generally cocked and with a short, thin, sharply-pointed bill. The crown and nape were brown with short white streaks. The back was brown (somewhat darker in the center than on the scapulars) with white streaks, which were larger and somewhat more conspicuous than those on the crown. The rump and uppertail coverts were brown, lacking white streaks. The upperside of the tail was reddish-brown with black barring. The wings were brown with black barring. The throat and breast were white, with an inconspicuous buffy breastband. The flanks, sides, belly and undertail coverts were buffy, becoming especially buffy toward the tail. The face and auricular area was buffy-white with obscure brownish streaks. There was a fairly inconspicuous buffy-white superciliary line. Eyes black. Leg color not noted.



Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

The bird regularly gave a sharp, somewhat metallic 'chack' note, given while the bird was in the vegetation, usually, but not always, given in response to squeaking by the observers.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

The bird was observed in a patch of grass, small shrubs and weeds between a railroad track and a large, moist grassy meadow.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

The Long-billed Marsh Wren was eliminated because of the streaked, not solid, cap, the ~~stre~~ lack of a strong superciliary line, strongly buffy underparts and less white streaking on the back, and habitat (not cattail marsh).

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have observed the Short-billed Marsh Wren once before, a singing male observed at close range (about 15-20 feet) at Latham Reservoir in Weld Co. on May 25 and 30, 1969. I have observed the Long-billed Marsh Wren on numerous occasions in Colorado.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?  
The Peterson and Robbins field guides were consulted during and after the observation.

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_ after X observation; from memory \_\_\_

PRINT NAME: Robert Andrews SIGNATURE: Robert Andrews DATE: Nov. 27, 1969  
Street Address: 1390 So. Ivy Way Town and State: Denver, Colorado ZIP: 80222

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110