

Common Name: Winter Wren

Scientific Name: *Troglodytes Troglodytes*

Date: 6/28, 30; 7/2, 8, 13

Time: Various
8 A.M. to 7 P.M.Length of time observed: Five hours (total
for all dates)

Number: 4

Age:
2 Adult
2 JuvenileSex:
M, F, Juveniles

Location: ~1.5 miles up

Deaf Smith Canyon, SLC
North ForkLat/long: 111° 45' 50" N
40° 35' 40" W

Elevation (if known): 6800 ft.

Distance to bird:

Six feet

Light conditions:

Sunlight to shade

Optical equipment:

7X35 Leitz Trinovid

Weather:

Full sun to overcast

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Initial identification, based on typical wren shape (short body, short upright tail, thin curved bill) and size (4") on 6/28/91.

On 6/30/91 - detailed observation as close as 6'; comparison of song to tape recording, look in hand.

Male: Short bodied, short tailed wren. ^{Medium-}Dark brown top of head, nape, back & tail. Buffy brown throat & chest, with dark barring on lower belly. Fairly distinct buffy eyebrow. Dark bill; yellow inside. Wings and tail with dark bars, especially noted in folded primaries.

Female: similar to male, but chest & throat slightly paler. Separated from male on presumption that male was the singing bird.

Juvenile: similar to adults, but a dumpy, fuzzy appearance. Bill bright yellow, especially at the join of the upper & lower mandibles.

All of the above features can be seen in the photographs. Recordings taken on 6/30 of the singing male match the Winter Wren recording on "A Field Guide to Western Bird Songs".

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: Male sang regularly & continuously each visit from ground level to exposed perches up to 30 ft high. All birds chirped often.

Behavior:

Juveniles moved through low brush, chirping often. M&F were seen feeding young. Young were not seen foraging for themselves. Young were never more than a foot or so from the ground, but were capable of fluttery flight.

Habitat:

Stream bottom with mixed deciduous & conifers. Fir, maple, & scrub oak. Rock slide & brush included in territory. Habitat photos available.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

House wren (esp. juvenile): subject birds are short-tailed, darker brown with lighter brown throat & chest. Dark barring on lower belly. Adults singing & feeding young, eliminating juvenile House Wren. Song is that of Winter Wren by direct comparison with recording.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Familiar with both House & Winter Wren in northern Rockies.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

NBS Field Guide & "Field Guide to Western Bird Songs"

Significance of record in this area or the state:

First Utah confirmed breeding record?

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Photos of adults & juvenile, and tape of singing male available.

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ☒ notes made later ☒ from memory ☐

Observer: Stanley A. HEATH

Signature: Stanley A. Heath

Address: 3489 E 9055 S
Sandy, UT 84093

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Nic Nichol David Crider
Terry Cox

Date prepared: 7/28/91

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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