In Guatemala we never found it much below 6500 feet, in the Volcan de Fuego, where its chief resort is the deep ravines of the mountain and the belt of forest up to between 10,000 and 11,000 feet. It is also not unfrequently met with in the lower part of the tract of pine trees which clothe the upper 3000 feet of the cone. These Wrens are usually seen in small flocks of five or six individuals, which move restlessly amongst grass and shrubs near the ground. They keep carefully out of sight, uttering a rather clear Wren-like call-note.

CISTOTHORUS.

Cistothorus, Cabanis, Mus. Hein. i. p. 77 (1850). (Type Trogiodytes stellaris, Naum.)

This little genus is structurally not far removed from Trogiodytes, having a similar nostril with a covering membrane. Its tail is very rounded, the bill short and rather strongly curved. In coloration it is somewhat peculiar, the dorsal feathers in all the species, and those of the head also in some, being conspicuously striated longitudinally. Its habits, too, are also peculiar, as it seems to be found exclusively in marshy spots, frequenting the long rank grass and reeds which usually grow in such places.

In addition to Cistothorus Dr. Cabanis proposed a second generic name, Telmatodytes, for C. palustris; but the differences between the two are too slight to be admissible.

The number of species in the genus is not well ascertained, owing to the difficulty of determining the limits of some of them. Seven or eight names have been suggested at various times, which are perhaps referable to four or five species. Of these, two come within our limits, Cistothorus palustris, a northern bird which finds its way into Southern Mexico, and C. elegans of Mexico and Central America. The last named bird has a close ally in North America, and does not seem to be separable from a species of wide range in the southern continent to which the name C. polyglottus, Vieill., has been applied.

1. Cistothorus palustris.


Supra fulvescenti-brunneus, pilo lateribus et dorso nigris, hoc albido longitudinaliter striolato; alis et cauda nigris variegatis; superciliiis elongatis albis; genis, hypochondriis et crissio fulvis; corpore substantia reliquie albido; rostri maxilla fusca, mandibula et pedibus pallide corylinis. Long. tota 4, alae 2-0, cauda 1-6, rostri a rictu 0-65, tarsi 0-8. (Descri. exempl. ex Mexico. Mus. nostro.)

Hab. N. AMERICA, throughout the temperate portions 5-7.——MEXICO, Mazatlan (Grayson 8), Tomatlan (Salle 2), near the city of Mexico (White 3).