

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

✓ *ok*

Species Carolina wren 2. Number: 2 (1 seen + heard another heard)

Location Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City IA

Date: 1 Nov. 1975 5. Time Bird seen: several times during morning

Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): upper parts from forehead to tail, incl. wings, ^{dank} rusty brown, except for forehead, anterior portion of eyestripe, primaries which were a darker blackish-brown. Inner primaries, secondaries, rectrices barred with blackish-brown. Face + throat greyish-white; ^{dank} line through eye; blackish-brown (anterior) shading to rusty (posterior). Breast + belly cinnamon-buff. eye, bill, legs blackish. Slightly smaller than house sparrow. Body round, chunky; tail short, sometimes cocked up, cocked vertically down when bird sang. Bill rather long, slender, slightly decurved.

Description of voice, if heard: loud, ringing, triplets: "tk-et-l, tk-et-l, tk-et-l" on "twee-o, twee-o, p-twee-o" on ch-tr-dl, ch-tr-dl, ch-tr-dl (all 3 from same bird).

Description of behavior: moving about in brush, in brush-choked ravine.

Habitat - general: brushy ravine on gullies in Hickory Hill Park - park contains woods, open specific: pastures, brushy grown-up old fields.

Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: eye stripe, rusty color, large size, voice elim. House, winter wrens voice, lack of white in tail, short tail rule out Bewick's (v. rare if not extinct in Iowa City area) (file FWkent)

Distance (how measured)? 5-20yd (est) 12. Optical equipment: OXSO Binocs.

Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): gray cloudy day with diffuse light. sun ~~was~~ behind obs., at least some of the time.

Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: have seen/heard many C. wrens in DC, Md. Va. Seen many House + ~~some~~ winter

Other observers: (Miss, Wash. state) and also Bewick's (Wash).
None

Did the others agree with your identification? —

Other observers who independently identified this bird: same birds seen on other dates by N. Halma, M. Glasson.

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

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? transcribed from notes made on spot.

Signature: Michael C. Newlin Address: 128 Grove St

Date: 20 Nov. 1975 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240