

Record No. 3799

Code BEWR

C Name Bewick's Wren

S Name *Thryomanes bewickii*

How Many? 2 **Date** 4/13/99

City Fairfield **St/Prov** IA

Co Jefferson **Nation** USA

Place

Habitat Residential area

Area ABA **Tag**

Notes

Two Bewick's Wrens (white supercilium, long wagged tail with whitish outer corners) settled in our neighborhood. They nested in an unused dryer vent three feet above ground on the siding of a house. I believe young fledged on 6/2, which was the last day I heard them chirping in nest. On 6/4 I checked nest with my hand, and it was empty.

Flag 1 Yes **Flag 2**

More Notes

I found the location of the nest by observing one wren delivering food to the site. I thought at first this meant there were young in the nest, but later I realized it was probably the male feeding the female during incubation.

The dryer vent opened downward. The birds had to fly upward into it. Although it was only about 3 feet above the ground, it was safely located, because it would have been difficult for anything that did not fly to access it. There was no perch by which other birds could have gotten at the contents. Inside the house, the dryer vent was open to the kitchen. The residents stuffed in some tissue paper and enjoyed the sound of the young. They graciously allowed birders to walk close to their house and into their back yard to observe the birds.

During the nestling period, immediately after delivering food, one (presumably the male) usually perched in a nearby small maple and sang a melodious three-note song. Second note was one full note higher than the first. The third note was two full notes lower than the second, and it was trilled. He did not seem to be stressed by being watched, even at a distance of 30 feet. The other bird (presumably the female) did not sing, but often "scolded" before and after delivering food, especially if I was watching, even from 200 feet away and on the other side of vegetation.

The tails of both adults became so worn during nesting that the white corners were no longer evident

Other details:

One of them was almost as red on top as a Carolina Wren. Breast and throat were dirty white. Belly grayish, not rusty. Tail was long, loosely wagging from side to side, and bearing white patches in outer corners.