

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) 2. Number 1 (possibly 2)
 3. Location Just past North boundary of Hickory Hills Park, Iowa City, IA (Johnson County)
 4. Date: 5/2/81 5. Time Bird Seen: 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
 6. 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):
Dark brown cap with white eye-stripe; brown, ~~un~~ unstreaked back; wings same color as cap and back. Tail seemed long for a wren and the two outer tail feathers looked fringed because of the white spotted edging on them. Belly and breast was a very clean grayish white color. As it sang from a brush pile it also showed the white fringing on its tail feathers by throwing its tail from side to side in quick jerky motions.
 7. Description of voice, if heard: When first heard I thought it was a short winged Song Sparrow with a weak trill on the end, which later turned out to be the Bewick's Wren.
 8. Description of behavior: Wren like; flitting from brush pile to junk pile when pursued too closely and when singing threw head back and sang from open perch.
 9. Habitat - general: Junk yard and brush piles near Graveyard abutted by wooded ravine
specific: mostly seen in brush piles in ravine or at lip of ravine.
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
House Wren has gray-brown color on breast and belly; Carolina Wren has white eye-stripe but is buffy color on the belly and lacks the white-fringing on the tail; Winter Wren is brown on the breast and belly.
 11. Distance (how measured)? 25 to 50 feet at closest point. 12. Optical equipment: 7x35mm B&L Binoculars
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Bright, Sunny; At one point sun to my left while bird perched on brush pile sun fully on bird as it sang and jumped from perch to perch in brush pile. Many other angles also seen.
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have a lot of experience with House Wren, Marsh Wren and Sedge Wren, and have had numerous encounters with Winter Wren and Carolina Wren (in Virginia)
 15. Other observers: Barb Wilson, Bob Myers, Ross Silcock and many others
 16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Barb Wilson, Bob Myers, Ross Silcock, and many others.
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Robbins' Birds of North America, Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds, East. Just reinforced what I had noted about behavior and coloration.
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 3 days
- Signature: Francis L. Moore Address: 264 Western Avenue
Date: 5/5/81 City, State: Waterloo, IA 50701