

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Bewick's Wren 2. Number 1  
3. Location Iowa City IA  
4. Date: 4/17/81 5. Time Bird Seen: 5:20 to 5:21

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):

Wren, at least as large as House Wren or larger with long tail. Light gray below, darker gray on back. Prominent white eye line. Tail quite long - didn't see white spots because of light and distance.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard

8. Description of behavior: Flew up in open tree and move twice and disappeared.

9. Habitat - general: Brush, wooded down with junk -- between yards in city

specific: N. Summit St Iowa City N. of cemetery and W. of Hickory Hill Park, behind apartments

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

House Wren brown, shorter tail, no eye-line  
Carolina Wren much redder

11. Distance (how measured)?

50 ft (guess)

12. Optical equipment:

8x40 Trinorids

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Sunny but bird in shade

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

Used to be regular in this area but not seen here in many years,

15. Other observers:

Saw one in California in March  
James Huntington -- he found bird 3 days ago and heard it sing, also

16. Did the others agree with your identification? saw white spots on tail

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: yes

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

none

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 hr.

Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St

Date: 4/17/81 City, State: Iowa City, IA 52240