

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Bewicks Wren
 2. Number 1 (maybe 2)
 3. Location Iowa City (near Hickory Hill Park)
 4. Date: 5-2-81
 5. Time Bird Seen: 8:38 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):
 1. size - a little larger than house wren with much longer tail
 2. Brown back + wings + top of head (no obvious markings)
 3. lighter (whitish) below (throat-neck-breast + belly)
 4. Very prominent white stripe over eye
 5. Tail was edged in white with black dots
 6. dark eye
 7. Description of voice, if heard: - Somewhat like song sparrows - ended on high trill
 8. Description of behavior: Constantly moving from one place to another with tail cocked up -
 9. Habitat - general: It kept flaring tail out and jerking the tail around
Dense wooded ravines near Hickory Hill Park
specific: Deep ravines lined with junk
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
The other wrens do not have the white on the tail nor the same song
 11. Distance (how measured)? 25' - 50' stepped off
 12. Optical equipment: B+L 7135's
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Bright - many different angles
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen house, winter, sedge + marsh and this was obviously different
 15. Other observers: Francis Moore, Ross Silcock, Barb Wilson - and many others
 16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Bird had previously been identified by other Iowa City birders
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
I checked - Peterson - Field Guide To Birds
+ - Robbins - Birds of N. America
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? immediately
- Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.
Date: 5-7-81 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa - 50701