

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) How many? 1Location? In city of Marshalltown, Marshall Co., Ia. Jct. of Forest Blvd + Pope Blvd.Type of habitat? Residential; nearby shrubby fence rows; tall pine and deciduous mixWhen? date(s): 4 July 1982 time: 10:10 am to 10:40 amWho? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave., Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Russell Haysothers before or after you: Joe Schafflenbuel and Hawk Zalatel before me

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

The bird seen was a male (singing) that seemed to have a territory established in the backyard areas of two or three residences in Marshalltown. He regularly made his rounds and sang at the same points around his territory over and over. No sign of a female was found while the male was observed on 7/4/82. The bird seen was about the size of a House Wren but appeared to have a longer tail. The top of the head, back and wings were a chestnut brown color; the back did not have any streaking in it. The tail was a little darker color with the two outer tail feathers having white spots on their outside edges from about 1/4 down the feathers to their ends. It also had a habit of jerking its tail from side to side. The bird had a light colored (dusty white) eye stripe. The bird's breast was also a dusty white colored or <sup>very</sup> light grey. The bird usually sang from an exposed perch and his favorite perch seemed to be a television antenna on the roof of a house. Legs, feet and bill were a light brown to flesh colored, or overall light colored. Song was suggestive of Song Sparrows first 4 to 5 notes followed by a trill, almost exactly like the song on the Pat. Peterson Record.

Similar species and how eliminated: House Wren is darker brown with brown throat and belly and lacks white fringing on outer tail feathers, song is also completely different.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Viewing conditions excellent, bright sunny day with bird in open singing in open direct sunlight. Approx. <sup>75</sup>100' - 300' judged by eye. using Bausch + Lomb 7x35 Roof Prism binoculars and Celestron C-90 spotting scope mounted on Nikkormat Camera body, = 20X. Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen 2 other Bewick's Wrens in Iowa city May 1981, lots of experience with House Wren.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? time of observation this form completed? 5 hours

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