DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR extraordinary bird signetings in towa

What species? Bewick's Wren

How many? 1

39

Location? appx. 2 miles north of Burlington(Des Moines County) Iowa

Type of habitat? Brush pile near pasture and woodlot, Near farmstead.

When? date(s): Ap. 16, 1986 time: 12:15 PM to 12:30 P.M. (noon hour)

Who?your name and address: Robert Cecil 327 S. 6th, Keokuk, Iowa 52632

others with you: Elizabeth Christensen, Burlington, Iowa - Christiansen

others before or after you: Dana Christensen, the Fullers, Cal and Bernie Knight etc.

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.

Liz and I were talking at the office regarding birds she had seen. About the third one she got around to mentioning wax was this Bewick's wren at her house. She described the bird and call quite well, so we made a trip out to see it. The bird was at the brush pile--we found it quickly.

My first impression was of a long-tailed Wren. Although the bird had a conspicuous white supericliary stripe, the bird was not particularly reminisent of a Carolina. This bird appeared slimmer than a Carolina, and the tail was noticably longer. Liz said at first glance she though it was a gnatcatcher, and I can understand why. The bird was uniformly rusty brown above(the back). Above the superciliary stripe the crown was also uniformly rusty brown, but darker than the color of the back. Upon closer observation, the spotted white of the outer tail feathers was visible. This was not the bird's most conspicuous feature. The undersides appeared bo be a uniform gray-white. The bird's bill was slim and moderately decurved. The bird's most conspicuous behavioral trait was the frequent flipping of

its long tail.

I did not hear the bird sing, but hear repeated scolding chips.

and does

Similar species and how eliminated: Carolina Wren has heavier body, as not have white outer tail feathers, and has a comparatively shorter tail.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: N.A.

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

Viewing conditions: excellent. Distance perhaps 40 ft. (estimate) Binoculars: 10x40 Zeiss dialyt

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen once before in Seattle, Wash. Not particularly applicable, though. Western Bewicks gray, not brown above. References and persons consulted before writing description:

None

How long before field notes made? AT THE TIME this form completed? 1 week

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