

BEWICK'S WREN

May 24, 1984 9:30 a.m.

Waubonsie State Park
Fremont County, Iowa

Description: Nearly size of Carolina Wren, but with a slimmer more elongated "look". Crown, back and wings were brownish-rufous. There was a long, wide white eye stripe. The entire underparts were a pale gray. The tail was very long with white edgings along the tip.

Song: One, rarely two, buzzy notes followed by three to five melodius "chups". This song was repeated often. Also heard was an alarm call--a single long mewing note.

Behavior: The wren was very active--constantly flitting about the lower branches of oaks and hickories, four to ten feet above the ground. It was observed eating a green caterpillar.

Habitat: Loess Hills Oak-Hickory Forest
The wren was seen in a narrow strip of woodland bordered on one side by the park road, on another side by an open and mowed picnic area, and backed by an area of low shrubby tangles. Across the road was a deep, wooded ravine.

Distance from bird: At closest point--35'

Weather: Complete cloud cover; temperature 65F; Very windy

Equipment: 7 x 26 binoculars

Other observers: This bird was first seen and identified by
B.J. Rose of Omaha on May 23, 1984.
Barbara Padelford

Written from notes taken at time of sighting

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