

# WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species:  Number: (leave blank)   
Location:  Date:  Time:   
Bird Seen:  To:  Age/Sex:

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings WILL NOT BE RETURNED but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)

GISS indicated the bird was slimmer and longer-tailed than Carolina Wrens elsewhere on the property.

No notes on leg or bill color

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)

Superciliary line was very long extending well behind the eye and prominent. Not brite white but rather washed with buff or yellowish. Crown, nape, back, wings gray-brown – not cinnamon or rufous. No markings on back or wings. Throat gray-white with a few speckles. Chest, belly, flanks, lateral neck grayish white with no rufous/cinnamon at all. No notes on undertail coverts or extreme posterior flanks. Tail grayish with 2-4 white "mirrors" at the end of the lateral few tail feathers.

While the overall color was gray-brown, it was not the gray of the Bewick's Wren I was used to seeing during my 25 yr residence in Colorado

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:

On flying it uttered a short musical trill on one note, neither rising nor falling in pitch. The tone was what I would call "musical" and not "metallic" in nature

Description of behavior:

The bird flew up from behind a basket, perching just above head level a 2-3' distance, facing me. This allowed a view of the head, face, chest and anterior belly. It cocked its tail, then fluttered to the floor affording a view of the back and tail. It then moved to tow or three low perches (below head height) before flying out the door.

Habitat: (General and Specific)

The bird was seen in the laundry room of my house.

The house is at 2200' altitude, surrounded by hardwood forest, but with broken areas of small farms and pastures. About 2 miles from the house the country opens up, with more and larger pastures.

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)

I started the bird from behind a laundry basket, whence it flew to various perches 2-5' from me. No optics were employed. Lighting was "soft white" (2200° K) artificial light, supplemented by natural daylight from open doors and from windows.

Previous experience with this species:

I have no experience with the eastern subspecies of Bewick's Wren, but saw many of the western subspecies during my 25-year residence in Colorado and my 8 year residence in California.

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

The Carolina Wren is the only real contender, and I have extensive experience with this species in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Maryland and West Virginia. It is, in my mind excluded by the GISS of a slimmer, longer-tailed bird than Carolina Wren, as well as the tail spots, the unmarked back and wings and the gray-brown, not rufous or cinnamon red-brown color.

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)

If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report.

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

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

Sibley's eGuide To The Birds

Sibley Birds V2

allaboutbirds.org

audubon.org

xeno-canto.org

ebird.org

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

20 min.

Name:

Raymond L. Lilly, Jr.

Address:

[Redacted]

Date:

10 Oct 21

Signature:

[Redacted]

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee

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