

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Interagency Wildlife Task Group

PACIFIC WREN

Troglodytes pacificus

Family: TROGLODYTIDAE
B370

Order: PASSERIFORMES

Class: AVES

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

An uncommon to common resident in dense, mature conifer, hardwood-conifer, and riparian forests of the humid coastal belt from Oregon border to northern San Luis Obispo Co. An uncommon resident in similar habitats on western slope of Cascade-Sierra Nevada axis from Siskiyou to Kern cos. Some upslope movement in fall (Gaines 1977b). Wintering populations, including immigrants from north of California, occur along lower elevations in northern California. Rare to uncommon along southern coastal slope from Monterey Co. through Los Angeles Co. (Garrett and Dunn 1981). This species was formerly considered the same species as Winter Wren (*T. heimalis*), but populations in western North America were split into a separate species in 2010.

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Gleans larval and adult insects, spiders, and other small invertebrates from ground or near ground in tangled vegetation or fallen wood in moist, shady habitats, usually near water. Occasionally eats berries (Bent 1948, Ehrlich et al. 1988).

Cover: Low, tangled vegetation with logs and other wood on ground provides cover.

Reproduction: Nests in natural recess or cavity in or under log, stump, or root tangle (Grinnell and Miller 1944), or 0-3 m (0-10 ft) above ground in cavity in tree or snag, wall, or bank (Harrison 1978).

Water: Prefers areas near streams; drinks and bathes regularly.

Pattern: Frequents dense, mature coniferous forests and riparian stands with a dense understory, usually near streams.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Yearlong, diurnal activity.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Breeding populations mostly are resident, although there is some upslope movement in fall. Wintering populations, especially those in nonbreeding areas, may include individuals from north of California.

Home Range: No information found. May be same as territory.

Territory: Cody and Cody (1972) reported territory of 0.04-0.43 ha (0.11-1.06 ac) in England. Armstrong (1955) reported territory of 0.6-0.8 ha (1.5-2.0 ac) in England, and 0.3-1.2 ha (0.75-3 ac) in Holland. Jones (1972) reported 20-22 pairs per 40 ha (100 ac) in mature oak woodland, 24 pairs per 40 ha in mature birch woodland, and 5 pairs per 40 ha in scrub oak woodland, in Wales, U. K. Density in the Sierra Nevada reported in American Birds (1948-1976) averaged 11 pairs per 40 ha (100 ac), range 0.5-26 on 9 study areas (Raphael

and White 1978). In a cut-over Douglas-fir forest in Idaho, Johnston (1949) found 15-20 pairs per 40 ha (100 ac).

Reproduction: Breeds from early March to late August, with peak from mid-May to late July. Male often polygynous (Harrison 1978). Clutch size 4-7 eggs, usually 5 or 6. May rear 2 broods per season. Incubation 14-17 days, by female alone. Altricial young fledge in about 19 days (Ehrlich et al. 1988).

Niche: Preyed upon by sharp-shinned hawks, snakes and small mammals. Little life history information available for North America.

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