

## CAROLINA WREN

THERE IS A GROUP of diminutive brown birds whose tails are usually held either erect or depressed but who rarely hold any pose for a considerable length of time. The sounds they produce are usually all out of proportion to the size of the birds. The group is probably best known by its representative, the house wren, which obligingly occupies or at least appears to occupy the bird houses put up by hopeful



Carolina Wren

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young naturalists. Closely related to the wrens are the wren-tits and the dippers or water ouzels, with which we are not here particularly concerned.

The wrens are usually the size of the smaller sparrows. The Carolina wren measures six inches including the two-inch tail and the beak which is about 2/3 inch long. The Carolina wren is rather conspicuously reddish for a wren and lacks conspicuous markings except for a long white or pale brown stripe over each eye. The under parts are buff and the throat whitish. The wings are short as they are in most wrens. The black bars on the flanks of the winter wren and the white-edged tail of the Bewick's wren are lacking in the Carolina wren.

Carolina wrens breed from northern Florida to central Texas north to Nebraska and the lower valleys of the Hudson and Connecticut rivers. Sometimes they are found farther north into Ontario, Maine, Michigan and Wisconsin but this is rather unusual.

There are three subspecies recognized of which the Florida wren extends the range into Florida and the Lomita wren from Texas across the Mexican border.

Possibly the most startling thing about the Carolina wren is that it is more or less to be found over its range at any time of the year. On occasion it may sing, even with the snow on the ground its ecstatically repeated "tea kettle" or "whee-udel" song. This of course endears it to naturalists who at the winter season may be more or less starved for a sound such as they hear from this popular bird.

The nest is a mass of vegetable material commonly hidden in

stumps, fallen tree-tops or sometimes in buildings. There is an inner lining of finer material. In the nest the 4 to 6 eggs are laid. They are white or cream with cinnamon, brown and lavender markings. There may be two or three broods a year and incubation for 12 days is carried on chiefly by the female that is smaller than the male usually.

The food of the Carolina wren is probably 95 per cent insects and includes chinch bugs, cockroaches, grasshoppers, crickets, cotton-boll weevils, cucumber beetles, moths and similar pests. Although this bird is less likely to come to human habitations than the house wren, it can be

enticed to a feeding station by hamburger. For that matter, in these days that might not be a trait limited to our feathered friends. Apparently the wren has no habits contrary to those that suit man's interests and it has been awarded the honor of being the state bird of South Carolina.

The National Wildlife Federation encourages the study of birds of this type through banding and other means because those who learn to study one form of nature carefully usually have the habit of being rational in their evaluation of other forms of nature.

◆ Desk Trays, Yeltons.

Brookings Harbor Pilot 3  
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1953

## Hello World

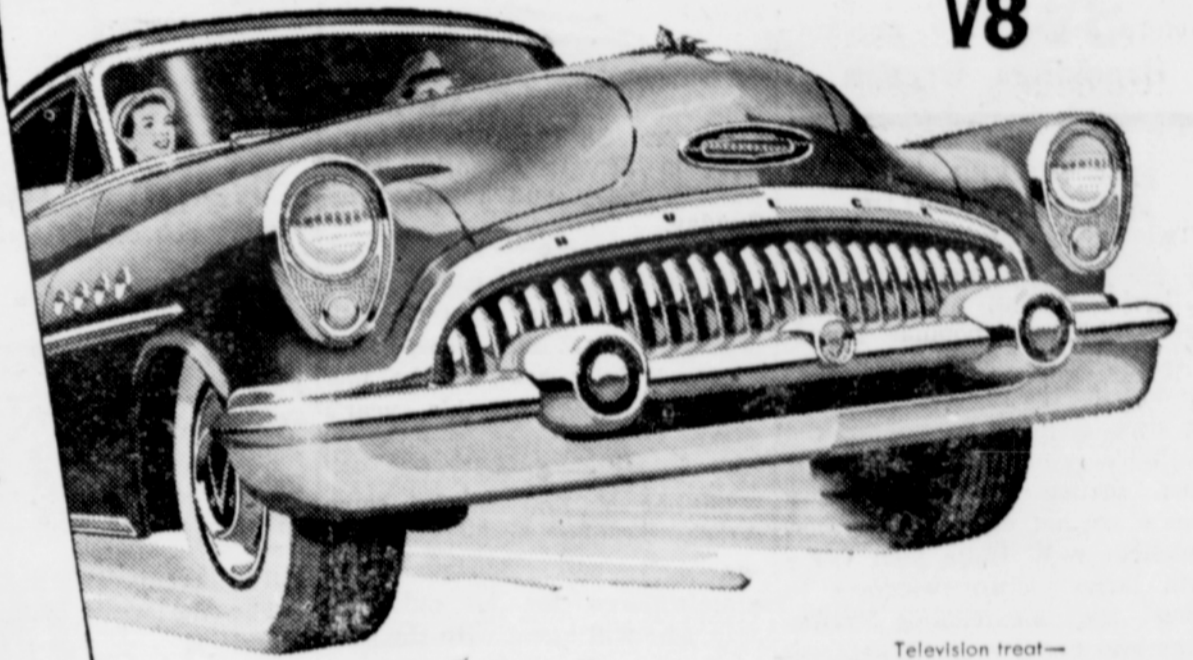
Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Norman of Smith River, a daughter, Cynthia Helen, on Tuesday, February 24, at Seaside hospital, Crescent City. Dr. Ronniger attending.

Born, March 2, at Seaside hospital, a son, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rettke.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Thompson are parents of a daughter, born Feb. 27 at Seaside hospital.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Beal Sunday, March 1, at Seaside hospital.

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