

FALL NESTING OF THE CAROLINA WREN IN CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI

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On 24 October 1988, my son, James F. Turcotte, showed me a completed Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) nest in a woven shelf basket hanging on the outside wall of his home under a covered patio in southwest Jackson, Mississippi. The wrens had been seen earlier in the week building the nest. It was made of green moss, dead leaves, paper, and dried weed stems in the usual fashion with the covered entrance on one side. It was placed behind a ceramic pot containing a plant killed by an earlier freeze. An earlier nest in the same location had produced a brood of five young, although the earlier nest had been removed and discarded.

On 5 and 14 November the nest contained 5 eggs and the wren was observed incubating. On 24 November, after about one week of abandonment, I removed the eggs and all were infertile.

The Carolina Wren is a common, statewide resident. Egg record dates extend from April to 22 August. Four young fledged from the August nest on 4 September 1978 (Turcotte 1978). Nests I have found held 3 to 6 eggs. Most clutches contained 5 eggs, the usual number for this species. My observations over a span of more than 50 years concur with Bent (1948) and others that this wren usually produces two and possibly three broods per season.

Literature Cited

- Bent, A.C. 1948. Life histories of North American nuthatches, wrens, thrashers, and their allies. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 195.
- Turcotte, W.H. 1978. A late nesting of the Carolina Wren in Hinds County. Mississippi Kite 8:39.