

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**A Winter Wren Roost.**—A roost of the Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) was discovered near my home at Carmel Highlands, four miles south of Carmel, California, on December 12, 1946. It was situated on the limb of a Monterey pine over a little-used road in what is known locally as "Fern Canyon." The canyon is a small ravine on the pine-covered coastal slope and is drained by a perennial stream.

The possibility of a roost at this place was brought to my attention by my daughter Alice who pointed out the excreta dropped by the birds on the pavement. That evening three or four birds were noted perched in a posture of sleep, with feathers ruffed out and tails partly spread, on a side branch of the pine limb, 12 feet directly above the center of the road. So closely were they huddled together that their feathers intermingled in the manner of roosting Wren-tits (*Chamaea fasciata*) (see Erickson, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 42, 1938:pl. 13). They presented a rather nondescript appearance and certain identification was not possible until they were seen coming and going at the roost on subsequent days.



Fig. 21. Five Winter Wrens on roost near Carmel, California, January 8, 1947.  
Bird in center has tail somewhat horizontal and is facing away from camera.

Close above the roosting birds, with scarcely any space between, was a protecting canopy of accumulated dead pine needles. This covering resembled the sort of shelter which I had observed a Bewick Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) utilize for a roost (Condor, 43, 1941:279; roost no. 3x).

Four or five birds were noted on the roost each night it was inspected (except on December 26, 1946, and January 9, 1947, when only one and two were noted) until a county road crew trimmed off the branch with the roost on January 10.

The communal roosting of a bird which is known as a solitary species in winter (at least to western North American observers) might seem noteworthy. However, the "Handbook of British Birds" (vol. 2, 1938:214) states that the English race of *T. troglodytes* "roosts . . . usually singly, but sometimes . . . a number together; as many as ten recorded roosting regularly in coconut shell and thirty or more in one group of Martins' nests. Not otherwise gregarious." Skutch (Auk, 57, 1940:293-312) describes social roosting of wrens of various genera in Central America. Many of these species build special dormitory nests in which one or many may roost at one time. Some species maintain relationship between adults and offspring and may all roost together in the post-breeding period. Skutch goes so far as to say that he is "not certain that any is quite solitary during the season when it does not breed" (p. 294).—LAIDLAW WILLIAMS, *Carmel, California, February 11, 1947.*

**Size of Bird Populations at Guam, Mariana Islands.**—After the return of American forces to Guam in 1944, military highways were constructed and old roads were improved, making it an easy matter to visit most parts of the island. While engaged in biological survey work for the United States Naval Medical Research Unit No. 2, the writer recorded by kind and number the birds observed during