



## State Bird: Cactus Wren



SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*

DESCRIPTION: Ranging between 7 and 9 inches, it is the largest wren in the United States. Brown head and brown-streaked back. White and tan stomach and sides with dark spots. Distinctive white band along eyebrow. Wings and tail striped white and black.

RANGE: Southern California and Nevada, southwest Utah, central New Mexico, and central and southern Texas into central Mexico. Abundant in elevations below 4,000 feet, but can be found up to 6,000 feet.

HABITAT: Desert and arid hillsides and valleys with tall cacti or other thorny plants capable of supporting bulky nests.

DIET: Omnivore. Primarily feeding on ants, beetles, grasshoppers, wasps, fruit and seeds. Sometimes known to eat tree frogs and lizards.

ACTIVITY PERIOD: Diurnal.

REPRODUCTION: Mate as early as February, with multiple double or triple broods if conditions are right. Take 16 days to hatch and another 19-23 days to fledge. Baby will remain dependent on parents for 30 days after leaving the nest.

STATUS: Population is stable and quite common throughout its range. Can even be found in urban areas. As a songbird, it is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Arizona Game and Fish Department. *Cactus Wren*. 22 April 2005. <[http://www.azgfd.gov/w\\_c/nongame\\_cactus\\_wren.shtml](http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/nongame_cactus_wren.shtml)>

Photo: G. Andrejko