

Along The Trail

by ken legg

Much has been said of the wren-tit: "It is a bird seldom seen; it is very shy. It is more often heard than seen; its nest is practically impossible to find." Perhaps the reason these statements are made is that we don't understand the bird's habits.

Walk down a trail that cuts through acres of dense chaparral. Maybe as you approach a given area you hear a series of clear, ringing bird notes run together near the middle, then finally falling off slower and slower.

Now that you have approached the place from whence came the song, you may hear a wren-like fussing, "churr-churr," and see one or two drab figures moving secretively about in the brush. Probably you'll not get a good look at them; chances are you'll catch only a movement.

Thus, they say wren-tits are seldom seen. But let's look at it this way. The dense thickets are his element, here he doesn't even need wings; the branches are so close he merely walks. The open areas where we can walk are our elements. Why should he come out in the open and expose himself to the

dangers of getting caught? If we want to see him, why not go to his element? Then we will find he isn't shy.

By crawling back into the brush and sitting quietly upon the ground, I have had the curious little half-wren, half-tit, come to me, walk across my feet, fly onto my shoulder and even look me in the eye. He isn't nearly as shy as some birds I know, if we go into his habitat.

Wren-tits are common birds wherever their range extends. In the coast regions, west of the Sierras, and in a narrow strip along the northwest California coast, this bird is found.

He is an all gray or brownish-gray bird with a long tail sometimes held upward at a steep angle. This brush skulking individual has a white eye and often the breast is somewhat streaked. He looks like an oversized, somewhat darker, bush-tit.

But there are differences. Wren-tits don't gang up; only the pair seems to occupy a given area. In general, they forage at an average lower level than bush-tits. Sometimes wren-tits are seen up in live oak trees, but for the most part they stick fairly close to the ground in shrubbery.

Impossible to find a wren-tit's nest? Was I fooled! For

PUBLIC NOTICE

No. 14,547
NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION TO MORTGAGE REAL PROPERTY OF ESTATE

In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Santa Cruz.

In the Matter of the Estate of ETHEL R. GORDON, also known as ETHEL RAWLINGS GORDON, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that RUTH L. GORDON, Executrix of the said estate, has filed herein her verified petition praying for an order authorizing the mortgaging of the real estate described in Exhibit A attached to said petition; and that Friday, the 13th day of July, 1956 at 10:00 o'clock A.M., of said day, at the Courtroom of said Court, in the City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, has been set for the hearing of said petition, and all persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the time and place set for said hearing and show cause, if any they have, why the order should not be made.

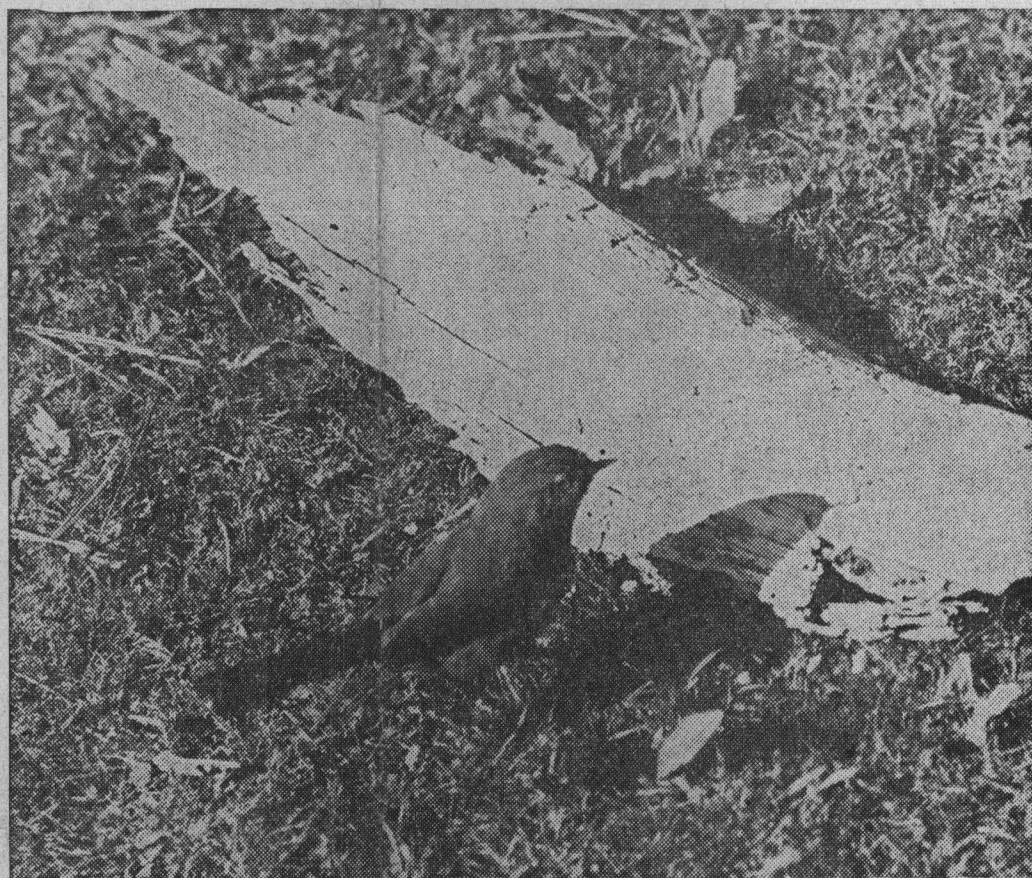
Reference is hereby made to the said petition for further particulars as to the terms and conditions of the proposed mortgage.

Dated: June 19, 1956.

TOM M. KELLEY, Clerk.
By MATHILDA ROSSI,
Deputy Clerk.

B. B. SNYDER, JR.,
Attorney at Law,
Suite 6, Medico Dental Bldg.,
Santa Cruz, California.
Telephone: GARDEN 3-2141.
June 20 to July 1

Wren-Tit Isn't Shy, Just Quiet



The wren-tit, pictured above, is usually considered a shy bird, but the author-photog-

rapher who made the picture declares this conception is an error, and that the wren-tit readily can be watched by those

who go into the little bird's habitat and wait for it to "come and see." ♦ ♦ ♦

several years, when I contacted obviously excited wren-tits, I'd go thrashing through acres of chaparral unlaced by path or trail and unmarked by any open place. Finally, I stumbled across a nest and found thereafter that wren-tits don't like homes in the woods any more than some people do.

Since that time I have found quite a number of nests. All have been near (just set back far enough to be concealed) some trail's edge. One was beside a railroad track in Santa Cruz, two were just alongside trails which traversed brush-covered slopes and another was near a large rock.

The nest is a small, neat, closely woven and tightly compacted cup of plant fibers. All those which I have seen were gray and were placed low in bushes. The eggs are pale greenish-blue.

Wren-tits are mostly insectivorous in their eating habits. Much of their time is spent searching the foliage of the shrubs which form their homes. I once watched a wren-tit breakfasting upon several hundred raw eggs; insect eggs, that is! Some caterpillar had laid a mass of eggs in a lilac leaf, spun a cotton-like case around the eggs, then curled the leaf about the entire thing.

Our prospecting wren-tit friend had found the treasure, picked away the leaf and was extracting and eating the eggs,

some of which were broken and exuding the yellow, yoke-like matter. I stood within three feet (my notes say) and watched the feast. I have also seen a wren-tit eat a poison oak berry, indicating to me that they sometimes take certain plant food.

Some children know the wren-tit as the "marble bird." As he reaches the end of his song the notes gradually drop off, lower and lower, slower and slower, reminding one of the dying bounce of a marble as it is dropped upon the pavement.

Such inquisitive, fussing furtive, drab little fellows are the wren-tits. But they can be viewed easily if one will but sit still for a while in his realm. Matter of fact, he will come right up and darned near shake your hand.

CALIFORNIA'S FLOWERS

Of some 30,000 different flowering plants in the United States, about one-sixth are found in California, which has more than any other state.

Nazarene Church Assembly Elects Rev. G. W. Coulter

Rev. George Coulter of Beulah Park, superintendent of the northern California district of the Church of the Nazarene, was elected to the church's governing board at Kansas City Friday.

Rev. Coulter, attending the quadrennial general assembly of the Church of the Nazarene, also was named a trustee of the Nazarene theological seminary in Kansas City.

From his Beulah Park headquarters Rev. Coulter had been administering the affairs of the 140-church northern California district—the largest in the U. S.—for the last eight years.

Rev. Coulter is well known as a preacher, administrator and youth speaker. As a member of the Nazarene general board he takes a place on the church's highest administrative council.

SOCALES

SOQUEL

GR 5-3395

SECOND BIG WEEK

Revatore HOTEL

across from the Wharf

Room and

ail Lounge

W OPEN

R GRAND OPENING

IN

WNERS

357

OPENING