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Cactus Wren Nest

With nothing more than a bird brain and a beak, a cactus wren constructed this marvel. It is a "night nest."



Rather than just sit on a limb of a tree in the chilly wind all night, cactus wrens prefer comfort, safety and a dash of luxury. This nest is lined with soft feathers which are densely packed in the sleeping compartment, which is only large enough for one bird. The nest has a porch, which was often used, as evidenced by bird droppings.

Even though cactus wrens are marvelous architects, they lack good ideas about sanitation. The vegetation is very densely packed around the sleeping compartment. It is so dense and tight that pretty much nothing could bite through it. The way it is woven, it is nearly impossible to pull apart.

What it lacks is adequate anchorage to keep it on a tree in bad wind. I have seen a few of these nests on the ground, including this one, testament to the poor anchorage idea. I always marvel at the construction of these nests when I occasionally find them. I have read that the wrens have several night nests scattered around one area so that they have sleeping options.