

Bewick's Wren

(Thryomanes bewickii)

Bewick's wren has faced major population declines in the last 100 years, especially east of the Mississippi River where it was once common but has now disappeared almost entirely. The species also shows some population losses in western portions of its range, including Arizona. The most likely cause of its disappearance in certain regions is the expansion of the house wren's breeding range. House wrens aggressively destroy Bewick's wrens' nests and eggs when their breeding grounds overlap. Bewick's wrens have shown population increases through nest box programs in

Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico. This species can be identified by its white eye-line and breast, as well as its habit of wagging its white-spotted tail side to side. Like all wrens, Bewick's is very active and seems intent on investigating every nook and cranny of its surroundings.



Nest Box Specs

HOLE 2" diameter
DEPTH 9"
FLOOR 6" x 6"
OTHER swinging side door for easy monitoring

HABITAT Bewick's wrens nest most commonly in juniper and oak ecosystems, from desert foothills to riparian woodlands. They have also been documented nesting in densely vegetated desert dry washes, especially where ample hackberry and mesquite are available.

BOX MOUNTING Nest heights range from 2 to 24 feet, but the average is 5.9 feet above ground. Wrens appreciate dense vegetation near their nests.

NESTING FACTS In Arizona, most nest construction may not begin until early May, though occupied nests have been observed as early as the end of March. Breeding activity peaks from late May to late June. Bewick's wrens can successfully fledge two broods a year. They have been found nesting in woodpecker holes, mail boxes, brush heaps, tin cans, baskets, cow skulls in pastures, and old clothing.

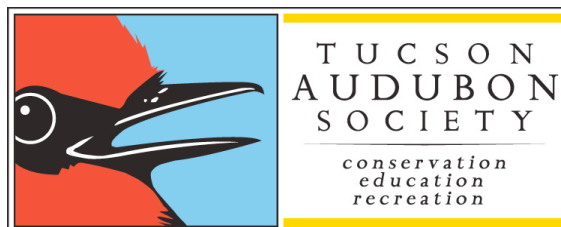


PHOTO: Minette Layne, Wikipedia Commons