

THE CAROLINA WREN[®] *by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida*



(Photo from a web site)

Recently while working in my garage with the doors open, a pair of Carolina Wrens kept entering the garage with the full intention of building a nest therein! I felt that this wouldn't be a good idea for a number of reasons – mainly that they would not be able to freely come and go to feed their off springs with my garage doors closed! They persisted in entering my garage for several consecutive days but, after chasing them away each time, they finally got my message. I later observed them to be gathering material to construct a nest elsewhere.

As I have learned from my review of various web sites, it is not that unusual for wrens to utilize the relative security of garage interiors for nest locations. In fact there are numerous stories available that describe this practice, but not all with happy endings. For example, in one such case, even though the birds were able to come and go to their nest site in the garage, a rat snake also accessed their nest and consumed all the fledglings. In another case, a stray cat invaded the nest with predictably-unpleasant results. On a more positive note, a neighbor of mine has had Carolina Wrens nesting in his garage for the past few years. Even though his garage door is closed more often than not, these clever birds have found an opening in the door seal that allows them to come and go at will. Interestingly (humorously), the specific location chosen for their nest construction was in one of his golf hats hanging on the garage wall, as seen in the following photo! Some stories describe seeing nests built in men's boots, in picnic baskets, and in and many other unique locations. Wherever these small creatures may choose to nest, they are yet another of nature's true miracles and delights!



(Golf hat nest photo by Ed Schneck, Kissimmee Bay resident)