

# Bird of the Month - August

## Marsh Wren



Marsh Wren



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Contact the Prineville Bird Club with questions or bird sightings 541-280-4957

### IDENTIFICATION

- **Very Small, pale on front and brown on the back**
- **Black stripes on the upper back, short tail often cocked up**
- **More often heard than seen, gurgling buzzy song**
- **Nests in cattails and tules**

### FOOD

- **Glans insects and spiders from pond vegetation**

### PREDATORS

- **Adults are killed by raptors such as Northern Harriers. Juveniles and eggs are eaten by raptors, Great Blue Herons, Black-billed Magpies, snakes and nest raiders like racoons and skunks**

### BEHAVIORS AND FUN FACTS

- **Habitat - Anywhere you find emergent vegetation (plants growing out of the water)**
- **Males usually take more than one mate and will build several “dummy” nests to fool predators**
- **Don’t let their cuteness fool you. Marsh Wrens are quite violent. They often fight among themselves and will even destroy each other’s eggs**
- **Most song birds reserve singing for the morning and evening. Marsh Wrens sing throughout the day**
- **Unlike many song birds, Marsh Wren populations are on the rise, increasing 130% in the last 60 years**
- **Most Marsh Wrens migrate south into Mexico but a few spend the winter right here in the Wetlands**