

covered with down, and with wing and tail feathers well developed.

What caused the tragedy? Had the parents fallen victims to cats? Had they for some reason been forced to abandon their family? From the time the male (?) disappeared we were newly aware of a wren singing a few houses away. Could this be our wren? Unfortunately, we will never know the answers to these questions.

*Editor's Note:* Six is not a large clutch for

House Wrens; Peterson's Western Bird Guide gives 5 to 8 eggs as usual with 12 as maximum. As far as is known, only the male sings. House Wrens raise two and sometimes three broods a year. While the adults may stay with the young up to 2 weeks after they leave the nest, the female may leave them when they are only a week old to start her next clutch. In such cases the male usually raises the young successfully by himself. Adults sometimes change mates between broods and one male has been known to feed the broods of two females simultaneously. All of which leaves many alternatives to explain the tragedy.



Wise old owl

Al Grass