

# A POSSIBLE CAROLINA WREN

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On November 25, 1997 Mrs. Florence Pearpoint saw a large wren at her bird feeder in Fort Qu'Appelle. It was larger than a House Wren; buff coloured underneath, and with a pale line above the eye. It was seen so frequently that day that she wasn't sure if it was the same bird, or if there were more than one of them.

She checked in her bird book and decided that the bird must be a Carolina Wren. Not knowing the rarity of this species in western Canada, she did not report it to any other bird-watchers. Between Christmas and New Years (in December, 1997) one of these birds came to the feeder one more time. Mrs. Pearpoint casually mentioned her sighting to Lorne Rowell later, but unfortunately the bird was not noticed since.

The Carolina Wren is a permanent resident in the south-eastern United States. In the fall some of them move northward and populate new areas, and establish themselves as far north as southern Ontario. They live a few months or years in these areas until they are killed off by severe winters, and the area must be repopulated by later northward movements of them. The Carolina Wren occasionally wanders north westward. There are two fall records of it for southern Manitoba, and one for Lethbridge, Alberta. We have not heard of any previous reports for Saskatchewan.

The mild fall and winter of 1997, with no snow remaining on the ground until after New Year's Day of 1998 would be a very likely time for a Carolina Wren to wander into our area.



*High Bush Cranberry*

*A. Clare Hume*