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Bacteria in House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) Nests

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Poster Presentation 34

BACTERIA IN HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*) NESTS

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Nest ectoparasites such as mites, fleas, fly larvae, etc., have been studied extensively as selective agents in the evolution of life history traits in several species of birds. The potential influence of bacterial populations in nests, however, has not been investigated. In this study we are examining used House Wren nests to document the presence of bacterial species, some of which may be potential pathogens. Standard microbial techniques are currently being utilized to identify bacteria isolated from the nests. The presence of pathogens in the nest may help explain the particular behavior of male House Wrens and other cavity nesting birds in removing old nests from nesting sites before beginning the construction of new nests.