

*Cody
Cochran*

Tangle leaves wren legless

Bek. Mt. News 22 Jan 1981

by CCIA Conservation
Committee

How do birds lose their legs? Recent references to one-legged cactus wrens reminded me of our crippled bird and the circumstances.

Excited children came in the house one day to say a bird was hanging in the tree. A cactus wren was indeed hanging from the tree, the

claws of one foot wrapped around with a long piece of dacron thread which was entangled in the branches.

I gathered it up in my hand to stop the panicked struggle and sent for scissors, cutting away the thread and branch. The bird's fluttering had almost severed its leg. Only a bit of skin held the lower bone

part of the leg to the thigh. With the kids wide-eyed and open-mouthed, I snipped the skin to sever the leg and as they gasped, I tossed the bird in the air and said, "It's up to God now."

Two days later a bumbling one-legged cactus wren was back at the waterhole. It was around for at least three more years.