

Inviting

# CHOLLA DWELLERS

to Your Home

CURVE-BILLED THRASHERS AND CACTUS WRENS



Curve-billed Thrasher



Cactus Wren

## Your Yard Is A Good Place For Cholla Cactus Dwellers!

- **Easy maintenance:** cholla are easy to grow from cuttings, use little water, and sprout colorful flowers and whimsical shapes.
- **Garden dwellers:** these birds thrive on seeds and insects already in your garden.
- **Great architecture:** both birds use the sharp spines of chollas for nest protection. Curve-billed Thrashers build a stick nest with an open top; Cactus Wrens build one or more nests of weeds, grass and twigs with a side entrance.



Buckhorn cholla

## Cholla Cactus Dwellers Are Good For Your Yard!

- **Dramatic characters:** Curve-billed Thrashers are handsome and cheeky; Cactus Wrens are perky and playful, and they are Arizona's state bird!
  - **Pest control:** they love to eat insects, grubs, and seeds.
  - **Musical accompaniment:** Curve-billed Thrashers have a cheerful two-note call year round and a lovely spring medley. Cactus Wrens sing a rasping, comical song like an old car engine starting on a cold morning.



Cactus Wren



Curve-billed Thrasher

Turn over for a **RECIPE** to bring **CHOLLA DWELLERS** to your yard. Get more information at:

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# Recipe for Inviting CHOLLA DWELLERS to Your Home

CURVE-BILLED THRASHERS AND CACTUS WRENS

## Ingredients:

- Cholla cacti, their favorite nesting site
- Bushes with dense mid-story
- Leaf litter, loose dirt, gravel, and brush piles where these birds dig for grubs and insects

Cactus Wren nest



Chain fruit cholla



Staghorn cholla



Ocotillo



Creosote



Catclaw acacia

## Directions:

- Create an area of desert scrub with cholla and native bushes that form an umbrella like canopy so the birds can feed beneath them on the ground in the shade.
- Both species will feed on old apples and tomatoes if you cut them in half and place them outside.
- Leave a layer of dead leaves and loose gravel on the ground for them to hunt insects.
- Keep your cats indoors—they kill many birds.

Curve-billed Thrasher nest



Cactus Wren nest



Find out more on attracting cholla dwellers to your yard at:

[www.tucsonbirds.org](http://www.tucsonbirds.org)