## Genus TROGLODYTES, Cuv.

CONTRACTOR SOFT OF THE STATE OF

The transfer of the state of th

Gen. Char. Bill slender, slightly compressed, emarginated, curved slightly. Nostrils basal, oval, half covered by an arched and naked membrane. Wings short, rounded; first quill very short; second longer; fourth and fifth equal and longest. Tail short, rather rounded, and carried erect. Legs strong. Toes three before and one behind; the outer toe joined at its base to the middle one.

## WREN.

Troglodytes Europæus, Cuv.
Le Troglodyte ordinaire.

Although the group to which this familiar little bird belongs is filled up by numerous species in the continent of America;—Europe, and even the older continents of Asia and Africa, present us with only one example; a species, however, which in Europe is universally diffused, inhabiting the countries which border the arctic circle as well as those of the South. In England it abounds in our hedgerows and thickets, hovering about the dwellings of man, with whose presence it seems perfectly reconciled, and near whom it is allowed to dwell unmolested. No one indeed can observe its habits and manners without becoming interested in its welfare, enlivening as it does the bleak season of winter with its tremulous, shrill and lively strains; nor is it less amusing to observe it creep like a mouse through our quickset hedges and underwood, examining the moss-covered banks and stumps of trees in search of its insect food which lies concealed among the crevices.

It seldom takes long flights, but keeps to the same local situations. It remains with us during the whole of the year, braving our severest winters with impunity. It breeds early, and its familiar disposition often leads it to build in outhouses, arbours, summer-houses, and similar situations; at other times it selects the sides of walls covered with ivy, and thickly wooded shrubs. It constructs an ingenious and curiously domed nest, of moss, leaves or grass, in fact of any material that may be at hand, and lays seven or eight eggs of a pure white, prettily freckled with reddish spots. The young on leaving the nest are extremely shy, and active in concealing themselves among the herbage and the thickest parts of bushes. The sexes offer no external differences, and the young very soon assume the adult plumage.

The ground-colour of the Wren is of a reddish brown, becoming paler and more grey beneath; the whole of the plumage is prettily barred transversely with darker brown or black; a narrow white line passes above the eyes.

We have figured an adult bird of the natural size.