REED WREN.

Salicaria arundinacea, *Selby.*

Le Bec-fin des Roseaux, ou Efarvatte.

This species, which is by no means uncommon in the British Islands, is, notwithstanding, much more local in its habits than its near ally the Sedge Warbler (*Salicaria phragmitis*, Selby), from which it may at all times be distinguished by its larger size, and by the uniform tints which pervade the upper surface. It bears a striking resemblance in most of its habits and manners to the species alluded to above, arriving in the British Islands at the same period, which is generally in the third week in April, when it retires to thick reed-beds, plantations of osiers, and the swampy borders of rivers. Its note, which is varied and pleasing, is not so harsh as that of the Sedge Warbler, but is delivered in the same kind of hurried and rapid manner. It also offers a little difference in its nidification, constructing a deep upright nest of the seed-tops of reeds and long grass, lined with the finer parts of the former, and which is almost invariably attached to the stems of several reeds, which are so intertwined as to form a firm support. The eggs are four or five in number, of a greenish white, spotted and blotched with brown and dull green.

On the Continent it appears to be universally spread in all the temperate latitudes wherever extensive lowlands covered with aquatic herbage afford it a shelter.

Its food consists of aquatic flies and their larvæ.

This species is very abundant in Holland, and is also found in some parts of France and Germany, but is still more rare in the South of Europe.

The whole of the upper surface is of a dull green with a tinge of brown, the edges of the quills being paler; throat, breast, and belly yellowish white, of a deeper tint upon the breast and flanks; between the mouth and the eyes a pale streak; eyelids pale yellowish white; legs dusky brown; bill pale brown.

We have figured a male and female of the natural size.