



## THE WREN.

KITTY WREN.

(*Motacilla troglodytes*, Lin. — *Le Troglodyte*, Buff.)

LENGTH three inches and a half. The bill is slender, and a little curved; upper mandible and tips of a brownish horn colour, the under one, and edges of both, dull yellow; a whitish line extends from the bill over the eyes, which are dark hazel; the upper parts of its plumage are of a clear brown, obscurely marked on the back and rump with narrow double wavy lines of pale and dark brown colours; the belly, sides, and thighs are marked with the same colours, but more distinctly; the throat is of a dingy white; the cheeks and breast the same, faintly dappled with brown; the quills and tail are marked with alternate bars of a reddish brown and black: the legs are of a pale olive brown.

This active little bird is very common in England, and braves our severest winters, which it contributes to enliven by its sprightly note. During that season it approaches near the dwellings of man, and takes shelter in the roofs of houses and barns, in hay-stacks, and holes in the walls: it continues its song till late in the evening, and not unfrequently during a fall of snow. In the spring it betakes itself to the woods, where it builds its nest near the ground, in a low bush, and sometimes on the turf, beneath the trunk of a tree, or in a hole in a wall: its nest is constructed with much art, being of an oval shape, with one small aperture in the side for an entrance: it is composed chiefly of moss, and lined within with feathers: the female lays from ten to sixteen, and sometimes eighteen eggs; they are white, thinly sprinkled with small faint reddish spots at the thicker end.

