

## GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN.

THIS is one of the smallest species of British Birds. Its weight seldom exceeds eight grains. Its length is three inches and three-quarters; the bill is very slender, and black; the eye, hazel. The crown of the head is extremely beautiful, being streaked with a crest, which is composed of a double series of feathers, arising from each side, and almost meeting at their points: the outside ones are black, the inside ones bright yellow, between which, on the crown, the feathers are shorter, and of a fine deep orange. The forehead, the chin, and the feathers round the eye are whitish. The hind part of the head, of the neck, and also the back are greenish; the breast is brownish white; the tail a little forked, the feathers, dusky edged with yellowish green.

“This minute species,” says Montagu, “braves the severest winters of our climate, being equally found in all parts during that rigorous season, and is by no means so scarce as it is supposed to be; but, from its diminutive size, it is seldom noticed. It would, in all probability be much more plentiful, but from some cause which we have not been able to discover. The female is frequently destroyed at the time of its incubation, and the nest with the eggs left to decay. Bechstein informs us that these beautiful birds are spread over the whole of Europe and Asia; its favourite haunts being the extensive pine and fir forests of the North of Europe, from whence they migrate towards the south on the approach of winter. In the month of October they are observed in Germany, passing towards the south,