

The Brown Tree Creeper (*Certhia Americana*) may, at this season of the year, be not unfrequently seen on the mossy trunk of some old apple tree, examining the crevices in the bark for insects and their eggs. It is a shy bird, however, and does not allow itself to be approached very closely.

It seldom leaves a tree without searching all its crannies from the roots to the top, running up sometimes in a direct line, sometimes spirally with the utmost quickness and rapidity, and then launching off, shoots downwards, and alighting at a little above the roots of a neighbouring tree, recommences its labours afresh.

When on the move, the Tree Creeper utters a short, quick grating note, which can be heard at some distance.

It breeds in a hole or cavity in the trunk or branch of a tree, frequently taking possession of some old hole or nest of squirrel or Woodpecker, which it lines with dried grasses and feathers. The eggs are from six to eight in number; the ground colour yellowish-white, irregularly marked with red and purplish spots.

The plumage is reddish brown on the upper parts, the head darker, the rump light brownish-red, all the feathers with a central dull whitish streak. Wings deep brown, the secondary coverts barred at the base with dull yellow, of which a broad band crosses both webs of the quills, excepting the inner web of the outer four, and the outer webs of the outer three. Most of the quills have also a greyish yellow patch along the outer web toward the tip, which is dull white. The tail feathers are yellowish brown. A silvery white band passes over the eye; the cheeks are dark brown, the lower parts silvery white.

When the wind is blowing keenly from the north-east, and the first flurries of snow warn us of coming winter, the little Golden-Crested Wren (*Regulus Satrapa*) (with the exception of the humming bird, the tiniest feathered visitor we have), may be seen flitting merrily from tree to tree, regardless alike of wind or snow, skipping from one twig to another, sometimes hanging head downward like the Black Cap Titmouse, with whom they often associate, and searching diligently after dormant insects concealed beneath the bark or withered foliage. It seems

wonderful how so delicate and diminutive a creature can either brave the cold of this tempestuous season, or extend its migrations over such long distances, for it is found at different periods of the year from Louisiana to Labrador!

Its ordinary note is a sort of low "screech" or chirp, but in the spring of the year, when they are sometimes very numerous in the pine woods, or among the evergreens in the shrubberies, among which they often linger for a few days on their way still further north, I have heard them sing very sweetly.

In company with the Golden Crested Wren, I have sometimes, although rarely seen what I supposed to be the Ruby or Fiery-Crowned Wren (*Regulus Calendula*), in which the tuft on the head was a more brilliant orange or flame colour than in the Golden Crested Wren; but the plumage was otherwise so much alike, that I was puzzled to decide as to whether they were a distinct species or not.

I have never met with a nest of the Golden-Crested Wren, but it is said to be built usually towards the extremities of the branches of the fir or pine, of a spherical form, with a small entrance at the side, and formed externally of moss and lichen, and lined with downy substances, such as cobwebs, or silk of caterpillars or cocoons. The eggs, scarcely larger than peas, are from six to twelve in number; yellowish white, with very minute points or reddish spots.

The plumage of this little bird is ash grey on the neck and sides of the head, olive on the back, and olive-yellow on the wings. There is a band of greyish white across the lower part of the forehead, which separates at the eye, one extending over, the other under; above passes a broadish band of black, the inner webs and tips of these feathers being of a bright pure yellow, forming a line of that colour; the lowest of these feathers on the front being nearly of the same yellow, while the inner feathers on the crown of the head are a rich flame colour. The lateral black and parti-coloured feathers are much the largest, and the two tufts are capable of widening or approaching, so as at will, either to display or conceal the brilliant crown within.

From the upper mandible, to the bottom of the ear feathers, runs a line of black, accompanied by another, which is whitish from the