

Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes

Bird · Resident · here all year



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A tiny, round, rust-brown bird with a finely barred back and a stubby tail usually cocked upright. Wrens are everywhere in Dumfries — garden walls, ivy, riverbank scrub, the tangled bottoms of hedges — but they keep low and move fast, so they are heard far more often than seen. The song is extraordinary for the size of the bird: a hurried, ringing torrent ending in a hard trill, audible right across a garden.

BEHAVIOUR

Wrens creep mouse-like through dense cover, working over stonework and root tangles for spiders and small insects. Males build several domed nests and the female chooses one to line. Hard winters hit them badly because they are too small to hold much heat, and they respond by roosting communally — dozens have been recorded packed into a single nest box or wall cavity on the coldest nights.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Wrens (Troglodytidae)
SIZE	9–10 cm · one of Britain's smallest birds
UK STATUS	Green-listed

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