



HOUSE WREN

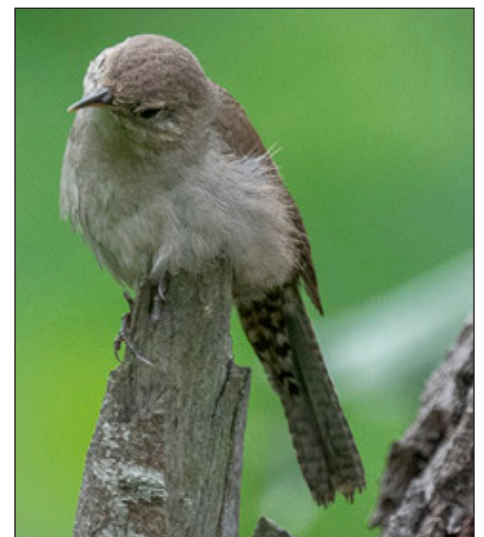
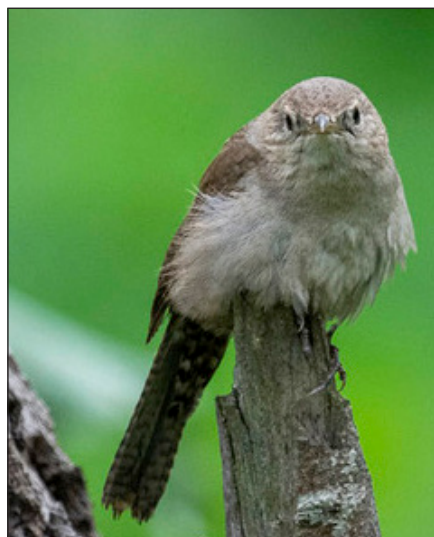


A springtime stroll through the Urban Forest delights the senses with the overwhelming beauty of vibrantly colored wildflowers and sweetly scented blossoming trees and bushes. Yet, for many, it is the auditory delight of birdsong surging at dawn, continuing through to dusk that most assails our senses engendering curiosity as to which birds are singing and what messages their sweet, varied songs and calls convey.

The diminutive House Wren stands out for its sheer vocal prowess and dynamic energy. The small, inconspicuously plumaged House Wren might otherwise be difficult to notice as it flits through the dense foliage were it not for its loud, fast, jumbled musical song. The hyperactive male House Wren may perch openly and energetically sing its effervescent, bubbling songs ten times a minute to impress, attract and retain a mate throughout the spring breeding cycle. Pairs of House Wrens successfully breed throughout the park utilizing natural tree crevices and man-made nest boxes.

The House Wren is shy, but notoriously curious, spontaneously popping up in the open, holding its checkered tail straight up, cocking its head questioningly.

Keep your eyes and ears open as you experience spring in the Urban Forest. A House Wren will most willingly serenade you if you slow down and just listen.



Bird of The Month essays are written by Betty Kanne with photos by James Kendall.