

(Jeff Lemons)



Regulidae the KINGLETS

Six species of birds are classified in the family Regulidae. They live in North America and Eurasia and they are among the world's smallest songbirds. Called "kinglets," they are active birds that are generally drab olive in color. The Latin word *regulus* means "little king" and each of these small birds usually has a colorful crown.

There are two species of kinglets in North America, the Golden-crowned Kinglet and the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. They are our smallest songbirds and are almost as small as our smallest nesting bird, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Both are common winter residents throughout the Carolinas. They arrive as early as October and usually are gone by the end of April. They are often found in association with small flocks of local songbirds foraging throughout the forest.

"And oh, what a joy it is to know these little bubbling-over songsters. They are very numerous."

—William McIlwaine, Charlotte, March 20, 1928