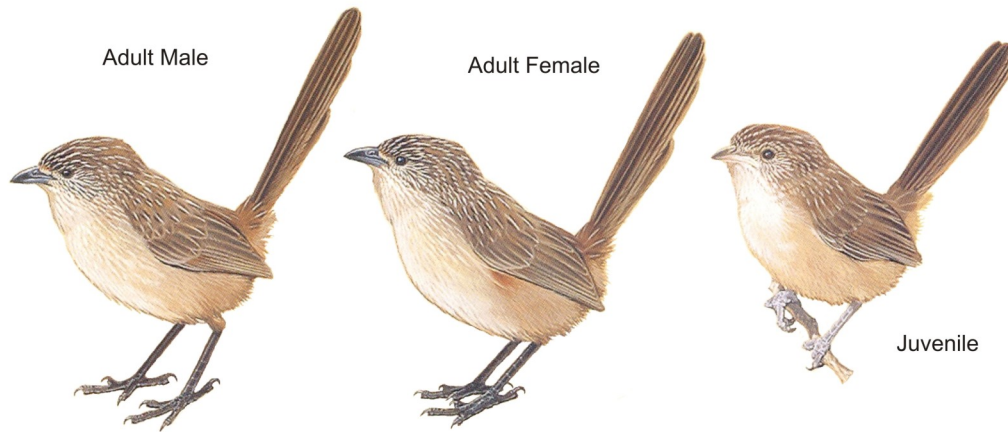


Thick-billed Grasswren *Amytornis modestus* Species No.: 8022 Band size: 04 (03) AY



Status:

Formerly in the *A. textilis* complex. See separate sheet for Western Grasswren *A. textilis*.

Morphometrics:

Arguably seven subspecies: nominate *A.t. modestus* (formerly in the NT - now extinct); *A.m indulkanna* (central n. SA & s. NT); *A.m. raglessi* (Flinders Ranges & Lake Eyre Basin, SA); *A.m. curnamona* (Lake Frome Basin, SA); *A.m. cowarie* (Sturt Stony Desert, SA); *A.m. inexpectatus* (central western NSW – now extinct) and *A.m. obscurior* (n-w NSW). There is apparently no significant size difference between the subspecies, but measurements are available from museum specimens of two of the subspecies as follows:

	<i>A.m raglessi</i> (Flinders Ranges & Lake Eyre Basin)		<i>A.m. indulkanna</i> (specimens from Hermannsburg area, NT)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	58 – 64 mm	57 – 63 mm	62 – 66 mm	59 – 63 mm
Tail:	67 – 85 mm	68 – 77 mm	77 – 86 mm	75 – 86 mm
Bill:	12 – 15 mm	12.2 – 14.9 mm	13.8 – 14.6 mm	12.5 – 14.0 mm
Tarsus:	23.8 – 26.4 mm	23.5 – 24.6 mm	23.9 – 25.7 mm	22.2 – 25.2 mm
Weight:	16.5 – 21.0 g	16.0 – 21.0 g		no data

Ageing:

	Adult (2+)	Immature (2-)	Juvenile
Bill:	black to grey-black with blue-grey base to lower mandible;	grey-black;	dark grey with small buff tip
Mouth:	grey	mouth initially orange-yellow changing to greenish-yellow then grey;	orange;

Immatures retain juvenile remiges and rectrices which may show synchronous growth bars; Immatures attain adult plumage when approximately one year old, probably coinciding with adult post-breeding moult. Thus immatures will be either (1) or (2) and adults will be (2+).

Sexing :

Adults are sexually dimorphic on plumage: adult females have a distinct rufous-brown patch on the upper or fore-flanks, whereas this is absent in adult males; Both sexes are thought to incubate.