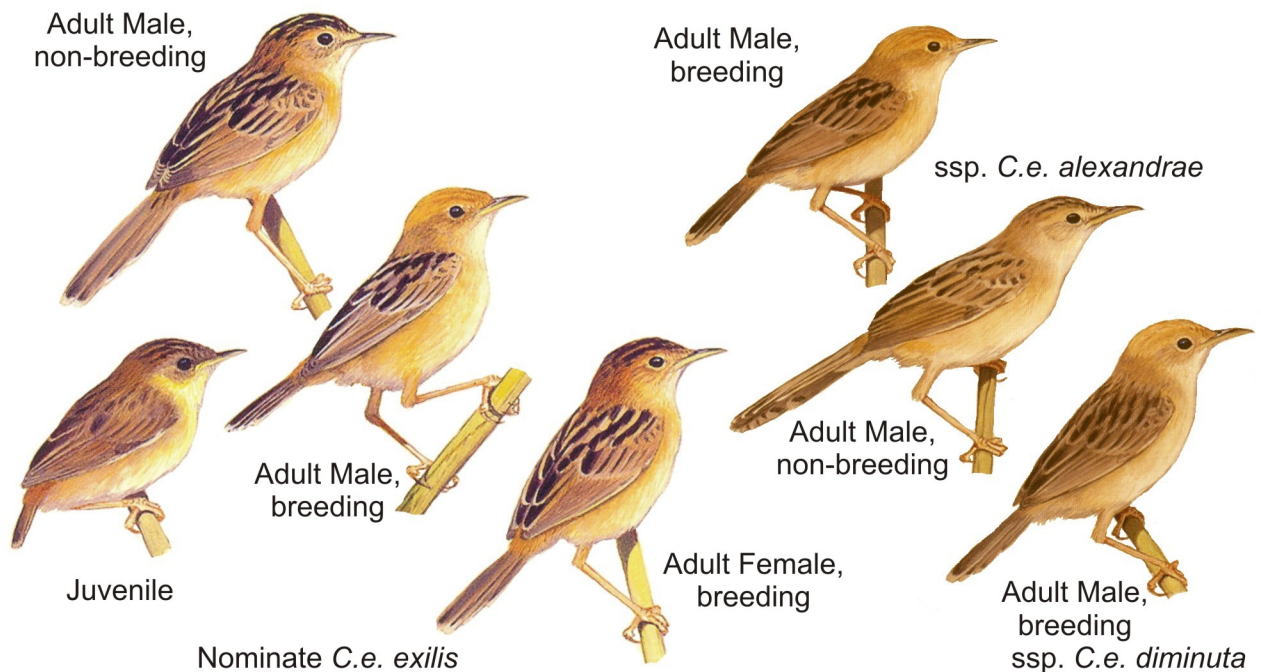


**Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis* Species No.: 525 Band size: 01 AY

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**Morphometrics:**

Twelve subspecies are recognised throughout s-e Asia & s-w Pacific with four subspecies recorded in Australia as follows:

	Nominate <i>C.e. exilis</i>		ssp. <i>C.e. diminuta</i>	
	(Qld s. of Bowen, NSW, Vic, SA, Kiing Is. & n-w Tas)		(Cape York & n-e Qld n. of Bowen)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	44 – 50 mm	42 – 49 mm	42 – 47 mm	42 – 45 mm
Tail:	30 – 51 mm	35 – 50 mm	29 – 53 mm	32 – 45 mm
Bill:	10.6 – 13.8 mm	10.0 – 18.4 mm	11.7 – 13.1 mm	11.7 – 12.6 mm
Tarsus:	17.2 – 21.6 mm	17.7 – 19.5 mm	17.7 – 20.4 mm	17.6 – 19.4 mm
Weight:	7.0 – 9.5 g	6.5 – 10.0 g	7 – 9 g	7 g (1)

	Nominate <i>C.e. alexandrae</i>		ssp. <i>C.e. lineocapilla</i>	
	(s. Kimberley D. WA, Barkley Tab. NT & n-w Qld)		(n. Kimberley d. WA & n. NT)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	44 – 48 mm	41 – 48 mm	41 – 47 mm	40 – 47 mm
Tail:	31 – 51 mm	33 – 50 mm	29 – 55 mm	42 – 53 mm
Bill:	11.9 – 13.6 mm	11.1 – 12.9 mm	11.1 – 12.5 mm	11.1 – 12.7 mm
Tarsus:	17.9 – 19.4 mm	17.3 – 21.1 mm	17.6 – 19.4 mm	17.6 – 21.2 mm
Weight:	6.0 – 11.5 g	6.1 – 7.0 g	6.2 – 8.3 g	6.0 – 8.3 g

**Ageing:**

Juveniles moult within a few months of fledging to plumage resembling that of non-breeding adults; Immatures retain juvenile remiges, or rectrices, or both and some retain juvenile greater secondary coverts which are more worn and paler than adults; Adult plumage is attained early in the second year, coinciding with complete adult post-breeding moult. Thus adults are at least aged (2+); All adults undergo a partial pre-breeding moult to their distinctive male/female breeding plumage (see below);

## Golden-headed Cisticola

(2 of 2)

### Sexing :

No size difference between sexes. Breeding adults can be sexed on plumage, but are indistinguishable in non-breeding plumage, as follows:

	Breeding Male	Non-breeding Adult	Breeding Female
Forehead, crown & nape	rich orange rufous or orange-buff;	coarse black-brown with fine yellow-brown streaking;	less coarsely streaked than non-breeding adults, but coarser yellow-brown or cinnamon-brown streaking;
Hindneck & sides of neck:	similar to nape, but slightly duller with faint brownish tinge;	dull orange-brown with diffuse dark-brown streaking or mottling;	yellow-brown, lacking dark mottling;
Mantle, scapulars & upper back:	feathers are black-brown with light brown or buff edges, heavily streaked black-brown with finer diffuse buff or light brown streaks;	similar to breeding male, but streaking tends to be darker;	similar to breeding male, but slightly less coarsely streaked blackish-brown or dark brown and with slightly coarser yellow-brown streaking;

Adult female is thought to do all incubation.