

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



**Morphometrics:**

	<b>Adult Male</b>	<b>Adult Female</b>
Wing:	44 – 50 mm	42 – 49 mm
Tail:	30 – 51 mm	35 – 50 mm
Weight:	7.0 – 9.5 g	6.5 – 10.0 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 Moul. Thus all adults are at least (2+); All adults undergo a partial pre-breeding moult to their distinctive male/female breeding plumage (see below);

**Sexing :**

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

	<b>Breeding Male</b>	<b>Non-breeding Adult</b>	<b>Breeding Female</b>
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.