

**Little Grassbird** *Megalurus gramineus* Species No.: 522 Band size: 01 (02) AY



**Morphometrics:**

Four subspecies are recognised with the three in Australia having distributions and measurements as follows:

	nominate <i>M.g. gramineus</i> (Tasmania & Bass Strait islands)		<i>ssp. M.g. goulburni</i> (mainland e. Australia)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	50.5 – 60 mm	51 – 59 mm	54 – 60 mm	53 – 56 mm
Tail:	54 – 71 mm	40 – 67 mm	55 – 68mm	54 – 64 mm
THL:	28.5 – 31.1 mm	27.5 – 28.7 mm		
Bill:	13.8 – 14.8 mm	12.2 – 14.3 mm	13.0 – 17.5 mm	12.7 – 15.1 mm
Tarsus:	18.7 – 22.2 mm	18.1 – 19.8 mm	18.2 – 22.0 mm	18.2 – 20.8 mm
Weight:	13.0 – 15.5 g	11.4, 11.7 g (2)	12.5 – 15.0 g	11.0 – 13.1 g

*ssp. M.g. thomasi*  
(s-w WA)

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	52 – 57 mm	50 – 57 mm
Tail:	53 – 65 mm	49 – 62 mm
Bill:	11.9 – 14.9 mm	13.4 – 14.0 mm
Tarsus:	16.8 – 20.8 mm	18.2 – 19.9 mm
Weight:	12.6 – 15.0 g	12.0 g (1)

**Ageing:**

	Adult (1+)	Juvenile
Forehead:	warm brown or dull rufous-brown;	brown with diffuse streaking - no rufous;
Crown & nape:	warm brown with bold black-brown streaking formed by feather shafts;	brown with diffuse black-brown streaking;
Underparts:	breast, belly and vent off-white or creamy-white with varying, but usually faint buff tinge with fine short dark-brown or blackish-brown streaks to breast;	extensively straw-yellow or creamy-yellow;

Juveniles moult to adult-like plumage within a few months of fledging, but immatures retain juvenile remiges and rectrices which often have growth or fault bars;  
Moult to full adult plumage commences at approximately one year of age, thus adults are aged (2+).

**Sexing:**

No difference in plumage, but adult males average larger than adult females, but there is considerable overlap – see morphometrics above;  
Both sexes incubate.