

BROWNTHOATED WEAVER  
*Ploceus xanthopterus xanthopterus*

SPECIES:

Brown rump all ages except breeding male.

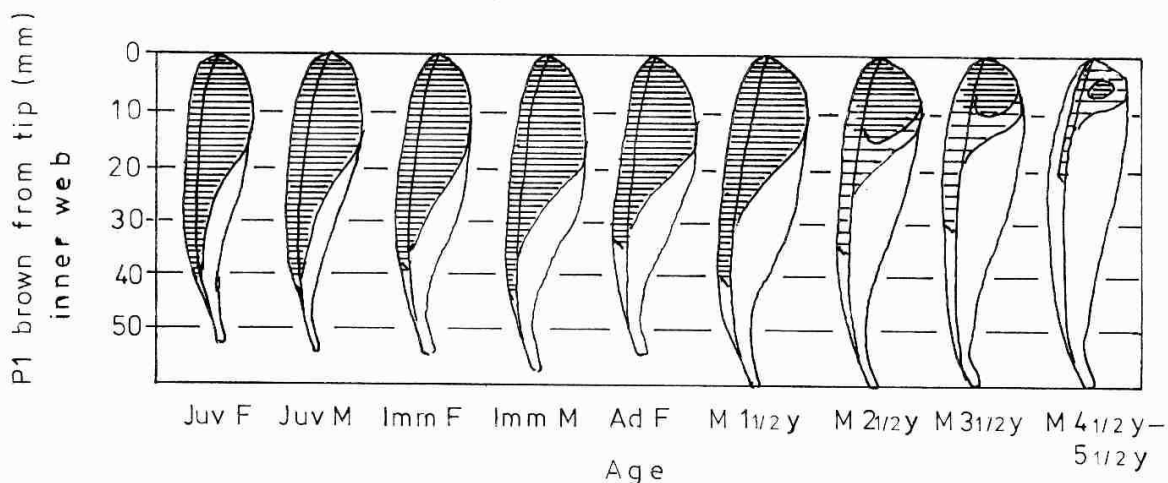
SEX:

Male larger. Wing length does not appear to increase after 2 y.

AGE/SEX	N	WING mm	TAIL mm	CULMEN mm	WEIGHT g
Adult Male	502	69-77	44-53	17,5-19,5	22-31
Adult Female	487	60-68	39-46	16-19	16-24
< 1 y Male	537	67-74	-	-	21-28
< 1 y Female	501	58-66	-	-	15-23

AGE:

For average amount of brown on P 1 inner web see below.



Juvenile to end post-juvenile moult: eye dull brown, bill horn, culmen blackish, lower pinkish, gape tubercles swollen and white, legs grey. Primaries brown/pale yellow.

Immature Male: post-juvenile moult to 18-20 months (non-breeding). Eye brown, bill as in adult female, gape skin pale horn to horn, legs grey-brown to brown. Primaries brown/yellow.

Immature female: as for male but at 12 months = adult female, except for primary colour.

Adult female from one-and-half years: eye bright brown, bill blackish above, horn below, gape skin mid to dark horn, legs brown to pink. Primaries brown/golden yellow. Amount of brown on primaries reduces very slightly with age. At 10 y brown on P 1 inner web =  $\pm$  25 mm.

Adult male from one-and-half years (non-breeding). Eye red-brown, bill as for adult female, gape skin dark horn to blackish, leg brown. (Breeding): bill and gape skin black, legs pink, primaries brown/golden yellow, but amount of brown on primaries reduces with age. At 10 y tip P 1 still brownish.

#### SKULL:

50% pneumatization = 6-7 months, 90-100% = 11-12 months. Full ossification = > 2 y.

#### MOULT:

Complete post-juvenile moult starts at  $\pm$  3 months. Takes 3-4 months for primary moult if hatched early in season. If hatched late, moult interrupted during winter or delayed to September/October, i.e.  $\pm$  6 months. Juvenile characters retained until moult almost complete, but P 1 as in immature once grown. Adults moult completely after breeding. Partial pre-nuptial moult in all adults, males  $\pm$  20 months and females  $\pm$  10 months (body, tertiaries, tail). Males  $\pm$  10 months also have partial moult of tertiaries and tail only, but not all feathers necessarily renewed.

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