BROWNTROATED 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE/SEX</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>WING mm</th>
<th>TAIL mm</th>
<th>CULMEN mm</th>
<th>WEIGHT g</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Male</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>69-77</td>
<td>44-53</td>
<td>17.5-19.5</td>
<td>22-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Female</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>60-68</td>
<td>39-46</td>
<td>16-19</td>
<td>16-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 1 y Male</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>67-74</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 1 y Female</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>58-66</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15-23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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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 = ± 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 ± 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. ± 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 ± 20 months and females ± 10 months (body, tertiaries, tail). Males ± 10 months also have partial moult of tertiaries and tail only, but not all feathers necessarily renewed.

Mrs D.B. Hanmer, Sucoma, Private Bag 50, BLANTYRE, Malawi.

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