

# Taveta Golden Weavers

*Ploceus castaneiceps*



## Physical Characteristics

- The Taveta weaver is a small bird, about the size of a sparrow, to which it is related.
- The chest of males is typically brighter yellow. The back is greenish-yellow and the wings and tail are greenish in color. There are reddish brown patches on the chest and neck. Females tend to be more dull in color with a yellow chest and olive/yellowish back. There are dusky streaks along the back and face with a yellowish strip above the eye.
- They have short, thick bills.

## Size

- Length: 5.5inches (14cm)
- Weight: 18-24 grams

## Lifespan

- In the Wild: 20 years
- In Zoos: 20 years

## Behaviors

- Social Structure: large groups, or colonies, which is beneficial for predator detection.
- The male Taveta Golden Weaver uses his beak to weave intricate ovoid nests, usually over water.
- The stout beak is designed for cracking open the outer hulls of seeds.

## Diet

- Wild: seeds and insects
- Zoo: seeds and insects

## Reproduction

- Females select a mate based on the male's skill at weaving a nest.
- Nests have been known to fill an entire tree. The nests also have different chambers to them, like apartments, which multiple mated pairs may occupy.
- Breeding typically takes place within the colony
- Clutch Size: 2-3 glossy, dark, olive-green eggs

## Habitat and Range

- Habitat: Bulrushes, woodlands, and swamps
- Range: Coastal east Africa from eastern Tanzania to southeastern Kenya

## Conservation

- IUCN Status: Least Concern
- Locally common, collected for pet trade

## Classification

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Class: Aves
- Order: Passeriformes
- Family: Ploceidae
- Genus: *Ploceus*
- Species: *P. Castaneiceps*

