Species Fact Sheets

Order:	Passeriformes	**Family:**	Ploceidae
Scientific Name:	Ploceus castaneiceps	**Common Name:**	Taveta Golden Weaver

AZA Management: ☐ Green ☐ Yellow ☐ Red ☒ None

Photo (Male):

Photo (Female):

NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range:	Europe	☐	Asia	☐	North America	☐	Neotropical	☐
	Africa	☒	Australia	☐	Other	Click here to enter text.		
Habitat:	Forest	☒	Desert	☐	Grassland	☐	Coastal	☐
	Riverine	☒	Montane	☐	Other	Swamps		
Circadian Cycle:	Diurnal	☒	Crepuscular	☐	Nocturnal	☐	Other	Click here to enter text.
Cold Tolerance:	To 70° F	☐	To 60° F	☐	To 50° F	☐	To 40° F	☐
	To 30° F	☒	To 20° F	☐	Other	A heat source should be made available when temperatures reach around 50 degrees F.		
Heat Tolerance:	To 30° F	☐	To 50° F	☐	To 70° F	☐	To 90° F	☐
	To 110° F	☐	Other	While Tavetas can tolerate temperatures around and just over 100 degrees F, they will need areas of shade and cooling as an option.				
Diet:	Frugivore	☐	Carnivore	☐	Piscivore	☐	Insectivore	☐
	Nectivore	☐	Omnivore	☒	Folivore	☐	Other (Add Below)	☐

Captive Dietary Needs:

In the wild their diet is comprised of primarily seeds but also includes grasses, insects and corn. They can be supplied with a combination of a variety of food items, including parakeet or finch seed, insectivore diet, softbill diet, maintenance diet pellet, some fruits (apple, melon, grapes) and vegetables (sweet potato, carrot) and some insects (mealworm larvae and crickets). Insects are particularly important for chicks.

Life Expectancy in the Wild:	Males:	20 years with 10 years being the average	Females:	20 years with 10 years being the average
Life Expectancy in Captivity:	Males:	20 years	Females:	20 years

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:	Males:	Males begin to get their coloring by 2 years of age, but are capable of siring prior to that. Exact age is unknown.	Females:	N/A

Courtship Displays:	Males will do tight wing flapping in hopes of capturing the attention of a female. However, mate selection by females is based on the males' nest weaving capabilities and their finished product.
Nest Site Description:	Ovoid woven nests constructed with manipulable vegetation such as grasses and leaf blades on reeds, trees or other plants near and over water. Males will construct a few nests in a small territory (close to other nesting males). If their nests fails to be selected by a female, they will break their nest down and rebuild it with fresh material. Once selected, the female may line the nest with fresh grass before laying eggs.
Clutch Size, Egg Description:	Clutch size is 2-3 with 3 being the average size. Eggs are an dark olive color and have a glossy appearance.

Incubation Period:	13 days	**Fledgling Period:**	14-16 days

Parental Care:	Females will feed their chicks insects and other invertebrates (such as worms and ants)
Chick Development:	Chicks are altricial and rely on their mother for food.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild:	Gregarious. They reside in large colonies of unspecified sizes. This is year long; no seasonal changes in social structure. They breed and nest in close proximity to other pairs. This species is also highly vocal.
Social Structure in Captivity:	Colonial

Minimum Group Size:	Click here to enter text.	Maximum Group Size:	Dependent upon the size of the exhibit.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:	Yes	**Comments:**	Tavetas are compatible with a large number of other species including mammals and reptiles. Anseriformes, Musophagiformes, Galliformes,

	Columbiformes, Gruiformes, Pelecaniformes, Passeriformes, Psittaciformes (not free flighted). As well as Testudines, and Pilosa.

Optimal Habitat Size:

Management Challenges:	Between the size of chicks and juveniles making banding difficult and the challenge that comes with pairing fledglings with a particular nest, identifying a sire and dam can be quite tough. The other challenge is discouraging aggression towards conspecifics by other Weavers, usually unrelated males.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

In general, their breeding and reproductive biology is not well known.

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