

WEAVERS

Taveta golden weaver

- Male golden weavers are bright yellow with chestnut patches on the nape and neck.
- The females are yellowish-olive with dusky streaks and pale yellow under parts.
- Golden weavers live in the lowlands, swamps and bush of southeastern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania.
- Their diet consists of insects, grains and grass seeds.

Do you see nests hanging from the trees?

- If so, these were built by the Taveta golden weavers, which get their name from the elaborate, woven nests they build.
- Males build the nests and females line the inside with grass or other soft material.
- A female will choose her mate based on how well he builds a nest!

Cape Thick-knees

- Do you see the mottled brown birds with long legs and huge eyes? This exhibit is home to a pair of cape thick-knees.
- Cape thick-knees are native to southern Africa and feed on insects and other small animals.
- They build their nests on the ground and lay two eggs per clutch – the parents' sand-colored feathers allow them to sit on their nests and remain camouflaged.
- Though they are related to shorebirds like plovers, cape thick-knees are adapted to life in desert and grassland habitats.

DID YOU KNOW? Taveta golden weaver nests are made from hundreds or thousands of knots including hitch knots, overhand knots, half-hitches and more – a pretty impressive accomplishment for a bird that has only its beak and feet to use as tools!

