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About the Namibia Bird Club

The Namibia Bird Club was founded in 1962 and has been active since then. The club's mission is to contribute to Namibian ornithology by, amongst other things, arranging regular birding outings, conducting bird ringing and atlasing excursions and educating the public about the value of birds. To achieve this, we organize monthly visits to interesting birding sites around Windhoek as well as regular visits to Avis Dam and the Gammams Sewage Works and occasional weekend trips further afield. Bird club members also participate in the African Waterbird Census twice a year.

Experienced birders are more than happy to help beginners and novices on these outings. If you have a transport problem or would like to share transport please contact a committee member. Depending on the availability of speakers and suitable material we present occasional lecture or video evenings at the Namibia Scientific Society premises. Members receive a digital newsletter, *Namibia Bird News*, which includes a programme of forthcoming events and the Bird Club journal, *Lanioturdus*.

The Namibia Bird Club is not affiliated to any global or regional organization and relies entirely on members' subscriptions and donations to fund its activities.

The opinions expressed in this journal are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Namibia Bird Club or its committee.

Instructions to Authors

Lanioturdus is a journal dedicated to birds and birding. Although the journal's primary focus is on Namibia, articles from other geographical parts of the globe will also be considered for publication. Authors should use common and scientific names of southern African birds as published in *Roberts' VII*. For other regions, English and scientific names following BirdLife International's species list (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species>) should be used. Text should be submitted as a MS Word document. Photos, maps and figures should be sent as separate jpeg images, graphs as MS Excel charts or jpeg images and tables as MS Word or Excel documents. Please indicate in the article text where these should be placed.



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Eye colour in weavers

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Neil Thomson recently published a photo of a Southern Masked-Weaver female with a brood patch and red eye colour (Thomson 2014), highlighting the fact that females of this species do not always have brown eyes.

Many bird books indicate that female Southern Masked-Weavers have brown eyes, but this is incorrect. In an analysis of my own ringing data, I found that 29% of 103 females with brood patches had a red or reddish eye, while it was brown in the rest of the breeding females (Oschadleus 2011). Females do seem to have brown eyes in winter. Of 59 confirmed females (i.e. handled with brood patch in summer, and retrapped in winter), less than 1% had a reddish eye in the non-breeding season.

Adult and immature Southern Masked-Weaver males have red eyes throughout the year.

In winter, however, the intensity of the red eye of males is usually less than it is in summer.

Interestingly, Lesser Masked-Weavers probably have pale eyes in adult

males and females at all times of the year, although the intensity may vary. A study of eye colour in the Lesser Masked-Weaver of different age and sex classes would be very useful – there is still lots to be discovered by ringers!

To read more about eye colours in South African weavers, download the Afring News pdf at http://weavers.adu.org.za/download/s/afrn_40_7.pdf.

References

Thomson, N. 2014. Red eyed female Southern Masked-Weaver. *Lanioturdus* **47(2)**: 21

Oschadleus, H.D. 2011. Iris colours in ageing and sexing South African *Ploceus* weavers. *Afring News* **40**: 7-12

This article inadvertently got lost when I took over as editor of Lanioturdus and was only found again in the “archives” recently. Since it still contains pertinent information it is published now. My apologies to Dieter for the late publication. – Ed.