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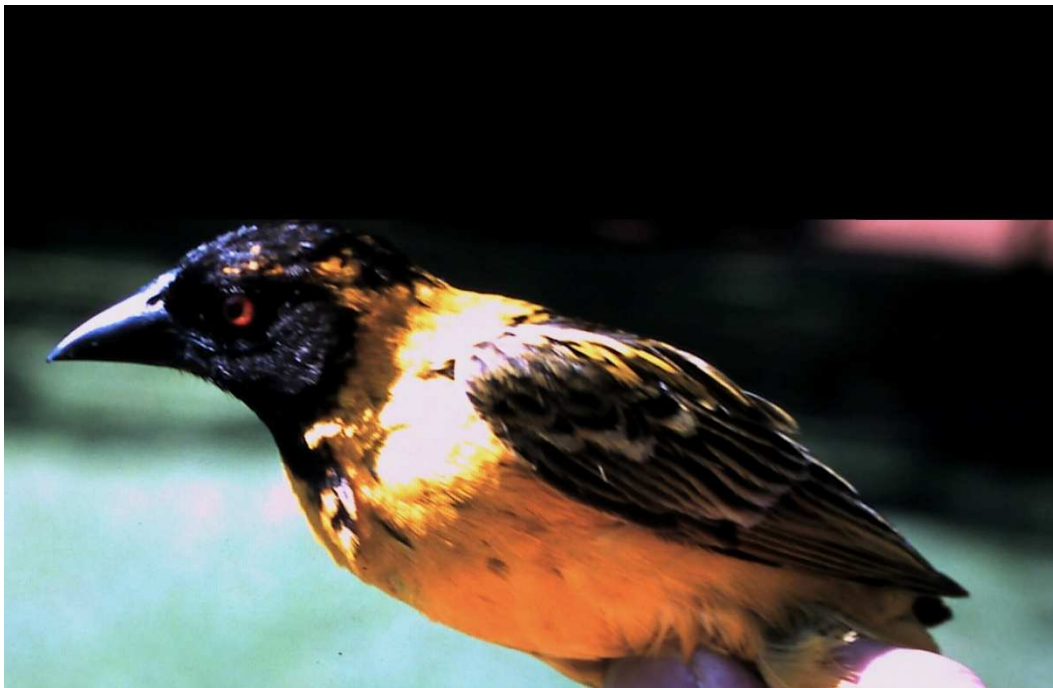
### More Black-headed Village Weavers *Ploceus cucullatus*

**Kobie Raijmakers**  
*raijsmakersk@vodamail.co.za*

Reading about the black-headed Village Weaver in Alan Brooks' note in Afring News, I remembered that I also netted and ringed one of these some years ago. I set out to look for the slides that I took in those years and I managed to find one. Storage and retrieving digital photos is quite a pleasure compared to finding one or two slides in an old system!

The bird ringed by me was netted on the farm Bospoort (24°15'S 28°17'E) near Warmbad in the Limpopo Province on 3 November 2001. It was also a nice brightly coloured breeding male (Fig. 1). Unfortunately the photo lost a lot of its quality when I scanned it but it is still recognisable as a black-headed form, *Ploceus cucullatus nigriceps*.

Subsequently to this, two more males with partial black heads were netted and ringed at Swebeswebe (24°47'S 28°03'E) on 12 November 2010. Swebeswebe is approximately 50 km southeast of Ellisras (Lephalale), in Limpopo Province. The black on the heads of the Swebeswebe birds is not quite as extensive as that of the Bospoort bird, or that of Alan Brooks' bird, but it still covers a great deal of the head (Fig. 2-3). Both these birds caught were from the same breeding colony which consisted of about 25 nests at that point in time. Does the possibility exist that these birds with a reduced black head are hybrids between the two subspecies of the Village Weaver, namely *spilonotus* and *nigriceps*, or are they *nigriceps* indeed?



**Fig. 1.** Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus nigriceps*, Bospoort, Warmbad



**Fig. 2.** Village Weaver (CV47182), Swebeswebe.



**Fig. 3.** Village Weaver (CV37922), Swebeswebe.