

# NOTICE

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## SIGHTINGS OF STRANGE WEAVERS

Whilst in Lengwe National Park on 20th August 1994, Dr Michael Dyer and I were surprised to see an almost entirely red-coloured weaver. We managed to get only poor views but clearly its underparts from its face to the belly were a brick-red, similar to the colour of a firefinch. I was fairly sure that it was a Spottedbacked Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*.

The colouration is a mystery: it occurred to us that it may have been colour-dyed as part of a study project.

Coincidentally, I was in Liwonde National Park on 1st September 1994, when one of the Mvuu camp staff mentioned that he too had seen a strange brick-red coloured weaver

there in August and had wondered what it was. I have checked the literature and can not find any reference to a red colour morph in this or any closely-related species of weaver.

Enquiries are being made around the sub-region to see if there are any colour-dyeing projects involving weavers. In the meantime, if anyone sees or hears of any more strange red weavers, please let me know at the following address:

Mr Bob Medland  
2 Staplake Cottages  
Starcross, Exeter  
Devon EX6 8QT  
ENGLAND