## 6. Extreme Form

## **EXTREME BIRDS** 6.1 Classiest Colors Geographical Distribution - Coastal East Africa

## Guinea Turaco (Tauraco persa) Attribute - Astoundingly rare pigments in its plumage

Turacos are the only birds to possess true red and green color.

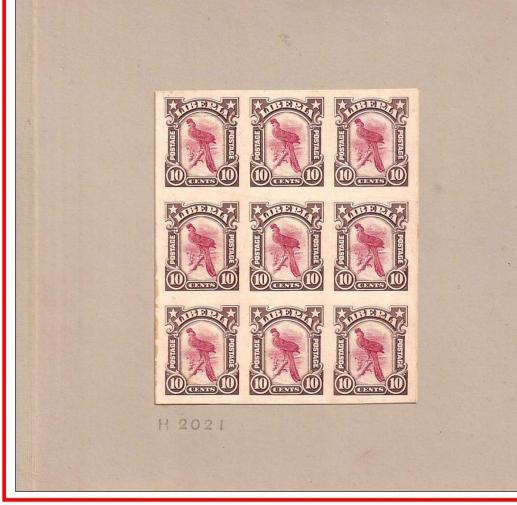
When you look at most birds, the color you are seeing is a reflection produced by the feather structure.

The turaco's red pigment (turacin) and green pigment (turacoverdin) both contain copper.



1965. Guinea Turaco Imperf Plate Proof# 40213







In fact, if you stirred a glass of water with a red Turaco feather, the water would turn pink! In museum species, the pigments deepen with age because the copper begins to oxidize.