

## 6. Extreme Form

### 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



## 6.1 Classiest Colors

EXTREME BIRDS

**Geographical Distribution** - Coastal East Africa



↑ Surcharged 1909



↑ Ovppt OS and new color 1909

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.