

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Cuculiformes
Scientific Name: *Tauraco erythrolophus*

Family: Musophagidae
Common Name: Red-crested turaco

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Circadian Cycle: Diurnal Crepuscular Nocturnal Other

Mainly arboreal, they typically descend to the ground to drink or bathe. A large part of the day is spent feeding, broken up by short rest intervals spent preening or basking in the sun. At dusk they will return to their favorite roost.

Cold Tolerance: To 70° F To 60° F To 50° F To 40° F
 To 30° F To 20° F Other

Hardy species as long as they are able to shelter from the elements. Access to a heated house during colder periods for birds maintained outdoors will prevent frostbite and encourage them to maintain activity levels.

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other This species will cool themselves with gular fluttering and are heat tolerant as long as they are not unduly

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stressed. They can withstand summer temperatures in excess of 95 degrees F with high relative humidity provided they have access to shade.

Diet: Frugivore Carnivore Piscivore Insectivore
 Nectivore Omnivore Folivore Other (Add Below)

Captive Dietary Needs:

Primarily frugivorous, but have been known to take insects, especially during chick rearing. Most captive diets consist of chopped fruit and veggies with a protein source in the form of a commercial pellet.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: unknown Females: unknown
Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: MLE is 11.4, longest surviving male was 28.3 Females: MLE is 11.8, longest surviving female was 31.

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: Median age is 3.7, youngest sire on record 0.81 Females: Median age is 3.8, youngest dam on record was 1.221

Courtship Displays: Chasing, calling, head bobbing, preening, feeding and beak clapping usually precede copulation.

Nest Site Description: Flimsy nest consisting of small twigs and sticks. Are known to accept nesting platforms and open fronted nest boxes.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 1-3 but most commonly 2 round white eggs

Incubation Period: 22-24 day **Fledgling Period:** 16-18 days

Parental Care: Both parents share incubation and chick rearing duties. Both parents will guard and defend the nest.

Chick Development: Parents will generally eat the eggshell once the chick has hatched. Chicks are covered in grey/black downy feathers and their eyes are open. For the first 4-6 days, a weight gain of 15-20% is normal. Growth slows to 10% per day as feathers erupt and the chick becomes more active in the nest. Chicks grow rapidly and may begin to explore the area around the nest as early as 12 days. Adequate perching around the nest area is critical for the safety of the chick as it becomes more mobile.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Territorials and will generally stay in pairs throughout the year.

Social Structure in Captivity: Work best in breeding pairs though larger single sex groups have been successfully maintained.

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Minimum Group Size: one

Maximum Group Size: Recommendation that they are kept in monogamous pairs though same sex groups are possible in larger aviaries.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Individuals have been found to be aggressive towards several species but with adequate space many are housed in mixed species aviaries. Most notably, competition for nest sites with gallinaceous birds has been noted.

Optimal Habitat Size: Smallest enclosure recommended for breeding is 7'x15'x10'. Individuals may be kept in smaller cages. All enclosures should be well perched to allow birds short flights and the ability to hop from branch to branch easily.

Management Challenges: Individuals can be aggressive towards conspecifics as well as cage mates. When pairing birds up, care should be taken to allow for proper introductions in an off exhibit area where separation is easily accomplished.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
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REFERENCES:
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COMPLETED BY:
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