

The International Turaco Society

aims to:

- ♦ research and promote good husbandry practices
- ♦ support conservation projects that have an impact on wild populations
- ♦ unite turaco enthusiasts around the world

The I.T.S. has commissioned the making of a pin badge featuring the rare and endangered Zanzibar subspecies of Fischer's Turaco, *Tauraco fischeri zanzibaricus*, to help fund a field study of their wild status on Zanzibar.



Zanzibar Turaco - pin badge - 31mm (max)

INTERNATIONAL TURACO SOCIETY

www.turacos.org



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ZANZIBAR BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY

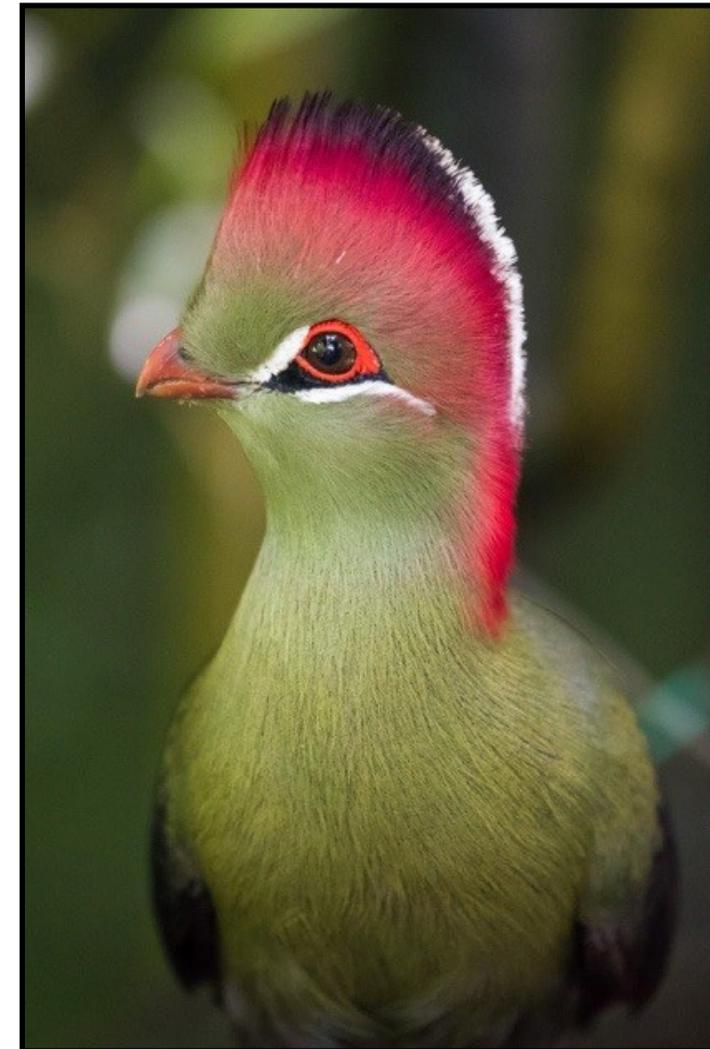
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Zanzibar Turaco

Tauraco fischeri zanzibaricus

Zanzibar, Tanzania



Turacos are a distinctive group of birds endemic to tropical Africa. They are shy, frugivorous and live in forests or dense woodland habitats, descending to the ground only occasionally to bathe or drink.

The Fischer's Turaco on Zanzibar is one of two subspecies of the Fischer's Turaco. This subspecies is the only turaco taxon not to be found on mainland Africa.

Following its description in the 1930s, *Tauraco fischeri zanzibaricus* has been observed on comparatively few subsequent occasions and suspected to be extinct. Fischer's Turaco as a species has an IUCN rating of 'Near-Threatened', but were the Zanzibar Turaco to be considered separately, it would meet the criteria to be classified as 'Critically Endangered'.

The turacos can be found only in the tiny area around Jozani Forest National Park, a small reserve in the island's centre. Few observations from Zanzibar have been published.



Zanzibar Turaco - photo taken by Adam Scott Kennedy

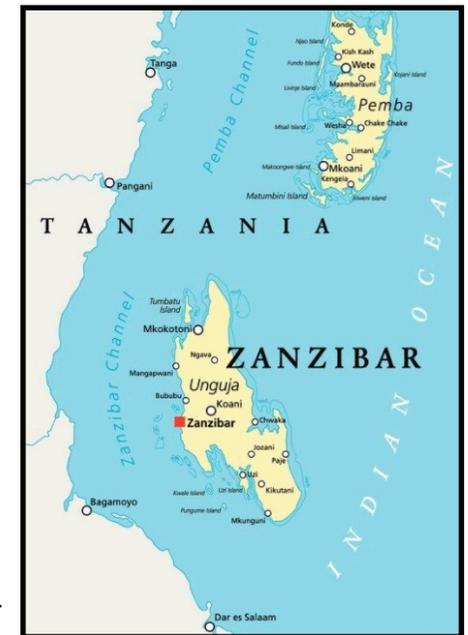
A comprehensive field survey was conducted in 2001, the results of which were alarming. From that survey it was estimated that by 2011 there were perhaps a mere 500 individuals left at most, and the population trend was still declining.

No surveys have been done since, so after another decade of continuous habitat destruction, it is urgent to determine how many individuals are left and how they can be protected from possible extinction.

Is this the beginning of the end for Fischer's Turaco presence on Zanzibar? It is possible, and that is why we need to re-survey and, based on the results, start a conservation project to save and protect Fischer's Turaco for Zanzibar and the world.



Zanzibar Turaco - photo taken by Adam Scott Kennedy



Location of Zanzibar