

2025 Worldwide Turaco Census Report

Compiled by Kateri J. Davis



Picture 1: Red Crest Turacos are the most popular turacos worldwide.

The turaco family is a group of beautiful, medium-sized softbilled birds that are generally seen only by the general public in zoos. These frugivorous African birds are bold and display well. Most of the species are brightly colored which helps their popularity in the softbill avicultural community. Unfortunately, they require large flights or aviaries as they are strong, active birds and do not do well in groups as adults, so usually have to be kept one pair to a flight. This deters many aviculturists since most do not have the space to house such birds. Despite this, even though many softbill species are disappearing, turacos are still one of the most popularly kept softbills in aviculture today.

In Jan. 2025, Kateri Davis conducted a census for turaco keepers with the goal to see the current status of turacos in aviculture. Participants were not only surveyed about the numbers and species they held, but also about the care, husbandry, and concerns dealing with turaco aviculture. The last survey of this kind was done by her five years ago in 2020. Since that time, aviculture has continued to be heavily impacted by more restrictive animal rights legislation, far fewer shipping options, the closing of many bird clubs and shows, and fewer people getting into the hobby.

Also, during the past five years, the Covid pandemic and several political issues have heavily impacted economies around the world and most individuals' budgets. Being that keeping birds, and in particular fruit-eating softbill birds, is an expensive undertaking, this surely had a negative effect on turaco aviculture.

The 2025 survey was available for two months. All of the previous census participants were notified by email, and the survey was posted on social media like Facebook, as well as other venues. Participants were a mixture of private aviculturists, privately owned zoos that were open to the public, and publicly owned zoos. The information helped provide a picture of how turacos were faring in aviculture in 2025. It provided proof that turacos have a good chance of surviving in aviculture, for at least another five years or more. (Knock on wood!)

Turaco taxonomy is complex and seems to always be in flux. Between the 2020's census and 2025's, there were major taxonomical changes proposed by Perktas et al to the turaco family. Most of the changes have been generally accepted by the scientific community. In the new taxonomy, most birds previously classified as subspecies have now been given species rank. Several species were given new genus and species names.

In creating the survey, it is noted that several choices were made by Davis to try to keep the reporting as simple as possible, avoid unnecessary confusion, and encourage participants. She decided to use the older classifications for the 2025 census as many turaco keepers were not aware of the new taxonomical changes yet. Birds that are now considered different species instead of subspecies (such as with the Green, Schalow's, and Purple Crested) were lumped together as was done with the older classification systems. Common names will be used in this report to try to avoid confusion as well.

The newer current taxonomy (Perktas et al) is included at the end of this report and will be used for the 2030 census (unless more major changes happen).

Worldwide Data

Census Comparisons	
2020	95 participants, 622 turacos of 15 species (plus 1 hybrid type)
2025	76 participants, 859 turacos of 15 species (plus 2 hybrid types)

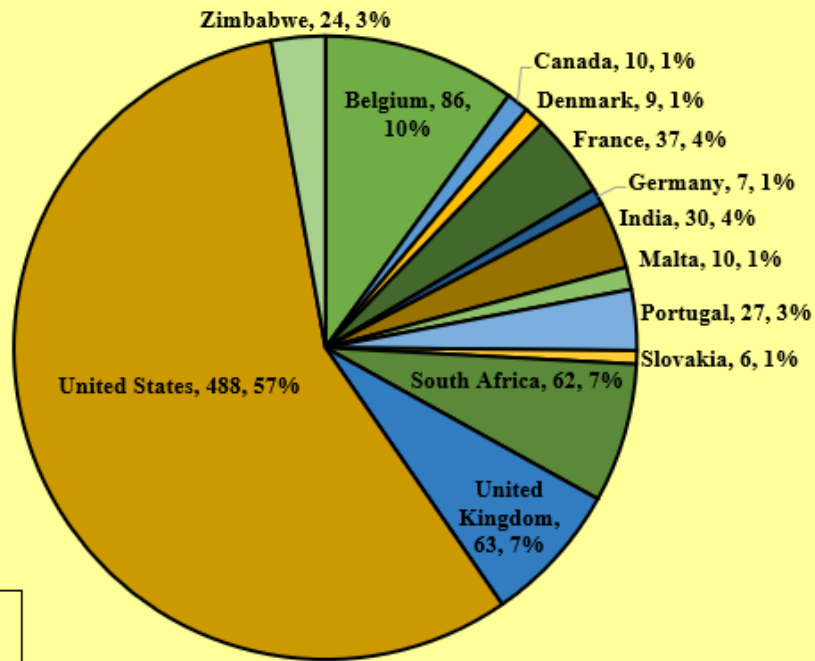
Seventy-six people worldwide participated and a total of 859 turacos were reported. This was a 20% decrease in participants but a 38% increase in turaco numbers. Thirteen participants around the globe reported holding over 20 turacos in their collections. Three of these (all USA private keepers) held from 60 to 87 turacos. That's a lot of fresh fruit to prepare!

Census Comparisons	
2020	13 countries (27 non-USA participants)
2025	13 countries (34 non-USA participants)

There was an increase in non-USA participants, which was great to see. Being that the census was done in English and promoted in English, there was a language barrier that surely prevented some turaco keepers from participating.

Total Turaco Count Per Country

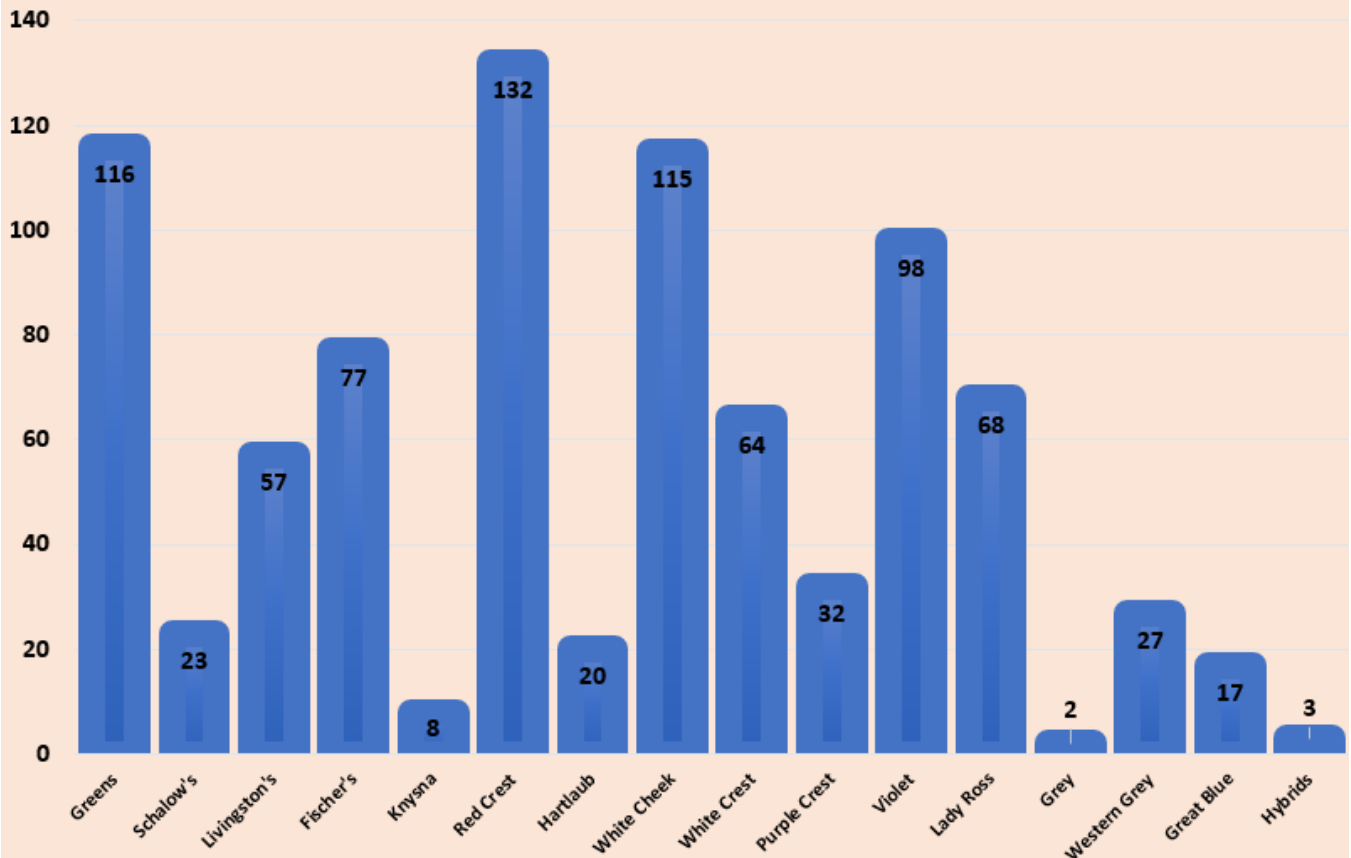
(Country, Count, Percentage of Total)



**859 Total Turacos
Reported Worldwide**

Belgium Canada Denmark France Germany India Malta
 Portugal Slovakia South Africa United Kingdom United States Zimbabwe

Worldwide Turaco Species Counts

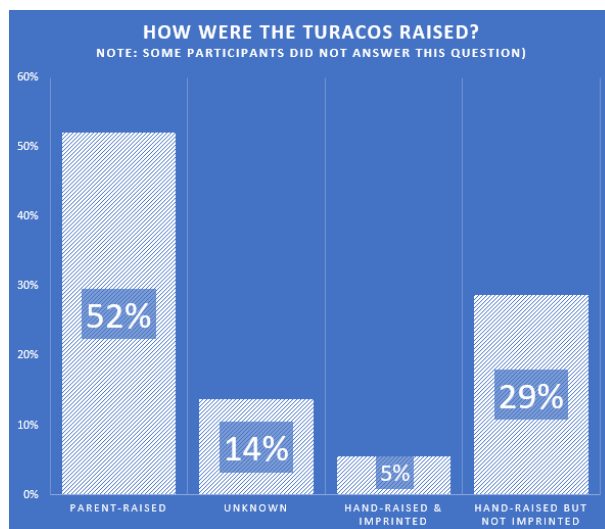
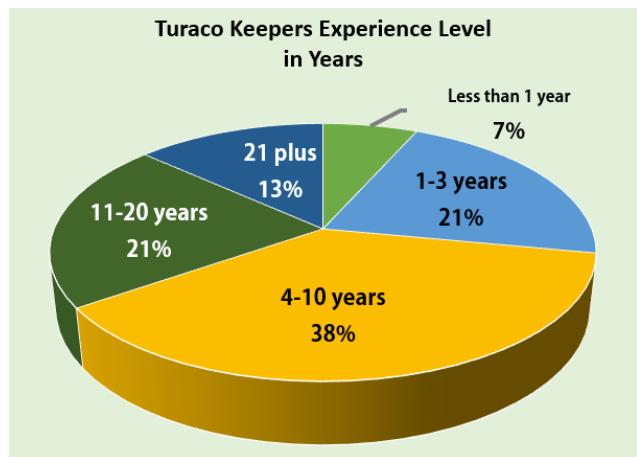


The survey had several questions about how the birds were cared for and housed, plus open-ended questions about shipping, challenges, and other comments. There were several global commonalities in the answers and comments. Turacos' hardiness and ease of care requirements were brought up by many keepers, as well as the need to frequently clean areas because of the soft, fruity fecal matter. Most turacos were held as aviary birds in breeding situations. Although specifically asked, no turacos of any color mutations were reported to be held by any of the participants.

As to the major worldwide challenges working with turacos, several keepers mentioned:

- Care and husbandry issues:
 - the high cost of providing the appropriate diets
 - the difficulty of providing large enough aviaries
 - problems with intraspecific aggression, especially during breeding season, and especially with males as the aggressor
 - having to house the birds in inside quarters part of the time due to cold winter temperatures in many areas of the world
 - difficulty housing multiple species together
- Breeding issues:
 - the difficulty in getting unrelated birds for genetic diversity
 - the difficulty of finding new homes for offspring
- Shipping issues:
 - the difficulties of shipping within the country, which ties directly to finding new homes for offspring as well as exchanging bloodlines
 - lack of shipping options
 - exporting and importing between countries

It was quite evident by the comments that turacos are truly loved by their keepers around the world. There is still a great need to educate the general public about turacos and to encourage more people to keep them.



Breakdown of USA Data

The 42 USA participants reported a total of 488 turacos of 11 different species. Two individual hybrids (Lady Ross x Violet) were reported. Respondents were from nineteen different states in the USA. All the major private turaco aviculturists in the USA participated.

There is an increase in large turaco collections from the 2020 census. Four of the 2025 participants hold between 22 – 28 turacos, four others hold between 37 – 87 birds. Florida, Oregon, and Texas have the largest collections; all in private aviculturists' hands. The largest population of turacos and turaco keepers still can be found in Florida, as in previous surveys.

Several participants in the 2020 census did not participate in the 2025. Two former private owner participants did notify Davis that they no longer kept turacos. Far fewer zoos participated in this census than in the past. However, it is unknown exactly why there was no participation from the others. Did they miss the census announcements, do they no longer keep turacos, were they zoo keepers that moved positions, zoos that no longer work with turacos, or ...?

The species reported were the same as reported in 2020, with the most commonly kept turaco Persa by far. Red Crest and White Cheek almost tied with second and third place, and an almost tie for fourth with Lady Ross and Violet. It is notable that there was a nice increase in the numbers of White Cheeks, Fischer's, and White Crest, while the Violet and Great Blue species had the largest decrease.












More pet-type turacos were reported from USA participants than the non-USA ones.

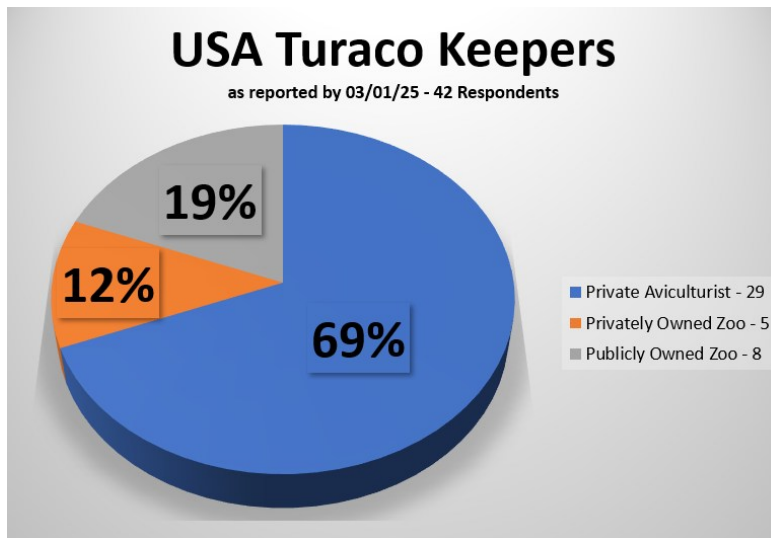
Within the past few years, shipping birds by airlines has become very problematic as many stations have closed and scheduling flights is more restrictive.

Inbreeding/Linebreeding is occurring not only because of the lack of founding pairs, but the lack of knowledge as to who are the ancestors of the breeding birds. Few aviculturists accurately document and track bloodlines, and even less pass that information on with offspring.

Unfortunately, some turaco keepers are finding it hard to transfer birds to new owners, mainly due to the current shipping issues, so have started limiting their breeding production.

In the past five years, one turaco consortium has been formed, jumped through all the legal hoops, and has actually been federally approved! This is a major accomplishment and would allow captive bred turacos to be imported from Europe. The consortium members are hoping to import Purple Crest and Schalow's within the next couple of years so hopefully more numbers of these species will be reported in the next census.

Who's Keeping Turacos in the USA (42 Respondents  , 488 Turacos ) (also, arrows indicate trends compared to 2020 survey)			
Type	# of Respondents	# of Turacos	% of Turacos Held
Private	29 	427 	88% 
Privately Owned Zoos	5 	37 	8% 
Publicly Owned Zoos	8 	24 	5% 

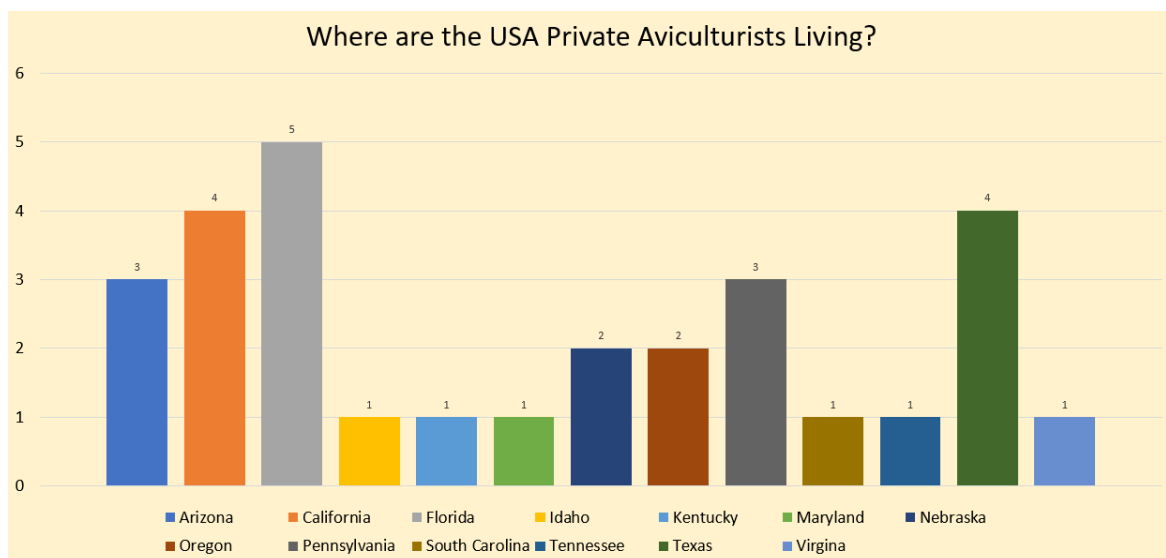


USA Turacos: 488 Total Birds Held (also, arrows indicate trends compared to 2020 survey)																		
Species	Persa/Green/ Buffon's			Livingston's			Fischer's			Red Crest			White Cheek			White Crest		
Number	89			34			45			73			71			34		
Genders (M.F.Unk)	35	31	23	20	14	0	22	17	6	33	35	5	36	33	2	19	15	0
Percents	39%	35%	26%	59%	41%	0%	49%	38%	13%	45%	48%	7%	51%	46%	3%	56%	44%	0%
Pop. Trend																		

Species	Violet			Lady Ross			Purple Crest			Great Blue			Western Grey			Hybrids (LRT x VT)		
Number	55			54			1			17			13			2		
Genders (M.F.Unk)	26	26	3	28	24	2	0	1	0	12	5	0	7	5	1	1	1	0
Percents	47%	47%	5%	52%	44%	4%	0%	100%	0%	71%	29%	0%	54%	38%	8%	50%	50%	0%
Pop. Trend																		

Pr = Private PrZ = Priv. Zoo Z = Public Zoo	How the Majority of Birds Are Kept in the USA			Main Breeding Techniques (by Majority)			
	Display	Breeders	Pet	Parent Raised	Hand Raised (to increase production)	HR & Imprinted for Pets	Not Breeding
Pr	8	22	8	9	5	3	12
PrZ	100	3	-	1	1	2	1
Z	100	4	-	4	-	-	4

State	# of Respondents		# of Turacos
	Pr = Private PrZ = Priv. Zoo Z = Public Zoo		
Alabama	Z	2	5
Arizona	Pr	3	6
	PrZ	1	2
California	Pr	4	23
	Z	1	6
Florida	Pr	5	220
	PrZ	1	11
	Z	1	1
Idaho	Pr	1	5
	Z	1	2
Illinois	Z	1	4
Kansas	PrZ	1	5
Kentucky	Pr	1	2
Louisiana	Z	1	3
Maryland	Pr	1	2
Nebraska	Pr	2	2
Ohio	PrZ	1	3
Oklahoma	Z	1	3
Oregon	Pr	2	100
Pennsylvania	Pr	3	15
S. Carolina	Pr	1	7
Tennessee	Pr	1	2
Texas	Pr	4	41
	PrZ	1	16
Virgina	Pr	1	2









USA Turaco Census Participants (Participants who choose not to disclose their info are not included) Pr = Private PrZ = Priv. Zoo Z = Public Zoo			
Alabama	birdkeeper@birminghamzoo.com	Birmingham Zoo	Z
Arizona	bmacaulay@phoenixzoo.org	Phoenix Zoo	PrZ
Arizona	mbarabiansaz02@gmail.com	Royal T Aviary	Pr
Arizona	wmbtrav@yahoo.com	Employed	Pr
California	dick.schroeder.911@gmail.com	Dick Schroeder	Pr
California	lclifford805@gmail.com	Les Clifford	Pr
California	steve@avianresources.com	Steve Duncan - Avian Resources	Pr
California	yans-ang@sbcglobal.net	Yans View Aviary	Pr
Florida	armandosobrado1@gmail.com	Armando Sobrado	Pr
Florida	dgonzalez164@msn.com	Dariel Gonzalez - DG Avian Exotics LLC	Pr
Florida	kaitlyn@wondergardens.org	Kaitlyn Henry - Wonder Gardens	Z
Florida	lafinca.ad@gmail.com	Aurelio Padron - La Finca	Pr
Florida	pluidsgamebirds@gmail.com	Florida Avian Conservancy	Pr
Florida	sherry.rodriquez@discoverycove.com	Discovery Cove	PrZ
Idaho	ealderete@idahofallzoo.org	Erika Alderete - Idaho Falls Zoo	Z
Idaho	johndelrio@mac.com	John Del Rio	Pr
Illinois	dave@decparcs.com	Dave Webster - Scovill Zoo	Z
Kansas	cadencetwp@gmail.com	Tanganyika Wildlife Park	PrZ
Kentucky	flandersen1953@gmail.com	Francine Andersen - Feathers End Aviary	Pr
Louisiana	wzolinski@auduboninstitute.org	Audubon Zoo	Z
Nebraska	damon@ddhall.com	Damon Hall	Pr
Nebraska	thippen1@gmail.com	Tanner Hippen	Pr
Ohio	kkuszmoul@raptorhallow.org	Raptor Hallow Sanctuary	PrZ
Oregon	dlaviaries@aol.com	Kateri Davis - Davis Lund Aviaries	Pr
Oregon	scottgoldensd@hotmail.com	Pacific Finches and Softbills	Pr
Pennsylvania	kricebirds@yahoo.com	Mountain Farm Aviary	Pr
Pennsylvania	samantha.weil.159@gmail.com	Samantha Weil – Samantha and the Birds	Pr
Pennsylvania	varnertravis99@gmail.com	Travis Varner	Pr
Tennessee	racheldeflores@yahoo.com	Rachel Flores	Pr
Texas	birdlandtexas@gmail.com	Birdland Texas	Pr
Texas	carolina@dwazoo.com	Dallas World Aquarium	PrZ
Texas	cpbirdfarm@gmail.com	Wu Hoo Tropicals	Pr
Texas	multibonum@yahoo.com	Mary Ann Brewer	Pr
Texas	trendasalas@gmail.com	Trenda Idrissi	Pr







Breakdown of Non-USA Data




The 34 non-USA participants reported a total of 371 turacos of 14 different species. One hybrid (Livingstone x Green) was reported. Respondents were from thirteen different countries around the world. Most of the participants were private aviculturists. The Red Crest Turaco was the most popular, with the White Cheek and Violet after. The Black Billed and the Bare Faced Turacos that were reported in 2020 were gone, but the Grey species was added.

Most likely due to language barriers, several non-USA turaco keepers responded with turaco information directly to Davis instead of filling out the survey. This led to some confusion as how to report findings and not all the data reported was as of Jan. 2025.

Non-USA Turaco Numbers & Who Holds Them (Pr = Private, PrZ = Priv. Zoo, Z = Public Zoo)		
Belgium	4 - Pr	86
Canada	1 - Pr	10
Denmark	2 - Pr	9
France	5 - Pr	37
Germany	1 - PrZ	7
India	2 - Pr	30
Malta	1 - Pr	10
Portugal	3 - Pr	27
Slovakia	1 - Pr	6
South Africa	4 - Pr	62
United Kingdom	7 - Pr 1 – PrZ 1 – Z	63
Zimbabwe	Pr - 1	24
TOTAL TURACOS		371

Non-USA Turacos: 371 Total Birds Held (also, arrows indicate trends compared to 2020 survey)																		
Species	Persa/Green/ Buffon's			Schalow's			Livingston			Fischer's			Knysna			Red Crest		
Number	27			23			23			32			8			59		
Genders (M.F.Unk)	12	11	4	14	9	0	11	12	0	17	14	1	3	3	2	28	29	2
Percents	44%	41%	15%	61%	39%	0%	48%	52%	0%	53%	44%	3%	38%	38%	24%	48%	49%	3%
Pop. Trend																		

Species	Hartlaub			White Cheek			White Crest			Purple Crested			Violet			Lady Ross		
Number	20			44			30			31			43			14		
Genders (M.F.Unk)	9	6	5	21	22	1	15	13	2	14	15	2	19	20	4	8	6	0
Percents	45%	30%	25%	48%	50%	2%	50%	43%	7%	45%	48%	7%	44%	47%	9%	57%	43%	0%
Pop. Trend																		

Species	Grey			Western Grey			Hybrids (LT X Green)		
Number	2			14			1		
Genders (M.F.Unk)	1	1	0	7	7	0	1	0	0
Percents	50%	50%	0%	50%	50%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Pop. Trend									

A Czech bird keeper from Association of Breeders of Insectivorous and Frugivorous Birds bird club reported all his members' birds at end of 2023. He shared with Davis a copy of their directory, and she found it to be one of the most organized and complete directories she has seen. It covered all species of softbill birds and not only included a census but was full of excellent information and pictures. The way in which members shared for the benefit of aviculture is impressive. It is a perfect model for all clubs and countries.

For number accuracy, Davis decided to report their turaco data separately (see next chart) and not include them into the other numbers of this report since it is at least a year ago that the numbers were taken, and since the individual keepers did not do the reporting.

**Count from the Schhapp Directory of
Association of Breeders of Insectivorous and Frugivorous Birds 2023, Czech Republic:**

Species	Male.Female.Unknown
Purple Crested (<i>Gallirex porphyreolophus</i>)	1.1.0
Schalow's (<i>Tauraco schalowi</i>)	1.1.0
Fischer's (<i>Tauraco fischeri</i>)	1.1.0
Persa (<i>Tauraco persa persa</i>)	2.1.0
Buffon's Persa (<i>Tauraco persa buffoni</i>)	1.2.0
Red Crest (<i>Tauraco erythrolophus</i>)	4.5.4
Lady Ross (<i>Musophaga rossae</i>)	4.2.0
Violet (<i>Musophaga violacea</i>)	7.6.0
TOTAL TURACOS	44

Non-USA Turaco Census Participants (Participants who choose not to disclose their info are not included) Pr = Private, PrZ = Priv. Zoo, Z = Public Zoo			
Belgium	verschuere.frans@telenet.be	VOGELPARADIJS	Pr
Belgium	willy.tieleman@skynet.be	Willy Tieleman	Pr
Belgium	cobra2491@hotmail.com	John	Pr
Canada	claytonbotkin@hotmail.com	Clayton Botkin	Pr
Denmark	biologen.lasse@gmail.com	Lasse Stærdal Simonsen	Pr
Denmark	kakadue@mail.dk	Softbills Knudsen	Pr
France	olivier.gauzignac@gmail.com	Gauzignac olivier	Pr
France	alice.zenoni@hotmail.com	Zenoni Alice	Pr
France	duret.quentin@orange.fr	La Ferme de Velbret	Pr
Germany	VogelparkBoRox@gmx.de	Vogelpark Bobenheim- Roxheim	PrZ
India	elan.capt@gmail.com	Yellow Bird farm	Pr
Malta	danielmanini@gmail.com	Daniel grech	Pr
Portugal	quintaldabarroqueirazonacentro@gmail.com	Quintal da Barroqueira Zona Centro	Pr
Portugal	duartanimals@hotmail.com		Pr
Portugal	msilvapereira56@gmail.com	Jardim da Mouta	Pr
Slovakia	demko.viktor@gmail.com	Viktor Demko	Pr
South Africa	stefancnrdb@gmail.com	Stefan Conradie	Pr
South Africa	danie.vandeemter@bayer.com	Danie van Deemter	Pr
South Africa	burgessbirds@gmail.com	Walter Burgess	Pr
South Africa	fran.robberse@gmail.com	Jf Robbertse	Pr
United Kingdom	pass376@btinternet.com	San Pass	Pr
United Kingdom	garethbfreeman@gmail.com	Gareth Freeman	Pr
United Kingdom	kathspensley@yahoo.co.uk	Ian Spensley	Pr
United Kingdom	daveroberts471@gmail.com	Dave Roberts	Pr
United Kingdom	stevewebb7730@gmail.com	Steve Webb	Pr
United Kingdom	cooleye1977@hotmail.com	Pauline Young	Pr
United Kingdom	adam_sheldrake@hotmail.com	Adam Sheldrake	Pr
United Kingdom	alistair@birdland.co.uk	Birdland	PrZ

In Conclusion

Turacos are a wonderful group of birds that will hopefully be a part of aviculture for many years to come. Thank you to all the people who took time out of their busy day caring for their birds to fill out this survey census! Davis anticipates conducting another census in 2030, so please spread the word.

About the Census Taker

Kateri J. Davis has been raising turacos and many other softbill species since 1990. This is the third turaco census she has spearheaded. She and her husband run the Davis Lund Aviaries in Oregon, USA. She wrote the book "Turacos in Aviculture", Birdhouse Publications in 2012. She can be reached at DLAviaries@aol.com and her website: <https://dlaviaries.wordpress.com>.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of "Turacos in Aviculture – 2025 Revised Edition", please visit <https://birdhouse-publications.weeblysite.com/home> or scan the barcode below. It is available in a PDF digital format and a printed, spiral coil-bound book. Same content as the popular, but out of print, 2012 softcover book. This book has been reformatted and revised with current taxonomy and updated content and pictures.

Author: Kateri J Davis

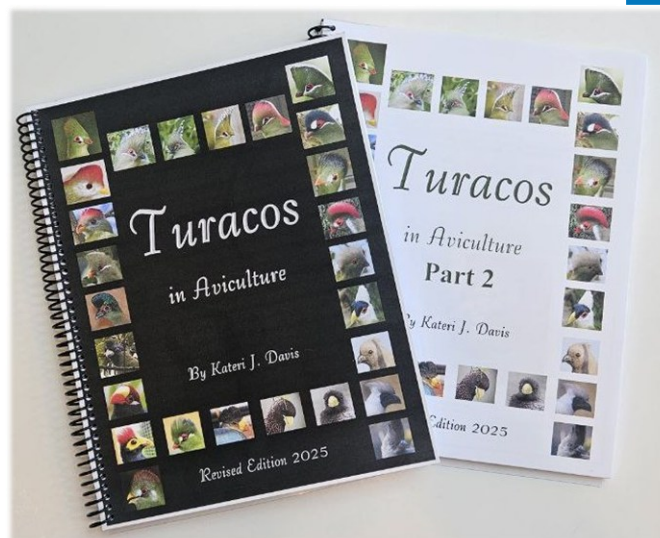
Publication Date: Originally 2012, Reformatted 2025

Language: English

Pages: 196

Copyright: All Rights Reserved – Standard Copyright License

Format: Physical, Coil Bound (2 parts)



Current Taxonomy: The newer current taxonomy (Perktas et al) which will be used for the 2030 census (unless more major changes happen).

Perktas et al Classification (2020/22)

Domain: *Eukaryota*
Kingdom: *Animalia*
Phylum: *Vertebrata*
Class: *Aves*
Subclass: *Neornithes*
Infraclass: *Neoaves*
Parvclass: *Passerae*
Superorder: *Strigimorphae*
Order: *Musophagiformes*
Family: *Musophagidae*

Subfamily: *Musophaginae*

Genus: *Gallirex*

Superspecies:

- **Species:** *Gallirex porphyreolophus* (Southern Purple-crested Turaco)
- **Species:** *Gallirex chlorochlamys* (Northern Purple-crested Turaco)

Superspecies:

- **Species:** *Gallirex kivuensis* (Kivu Turaco)
- **Species:** *G. johnstoni* (Ruwenzori's Turaco)

Genus: *Menelikornis*

- **Species:** *Menelikornis ruspolii* (Prince Ruspoli's Turaco)

Superspecies:

- **Species:** *Menelikornis leucotis* (White-cheeked Turaco)
- **Species:** *Menelikornis donaldsoni* (Donaldson's Turaco)

Genus: *Musophaga*

Superspecies:

- **Species:** *Musophaga macrorhynchus* (Western Yellow-billed Turaco)
- **Species:** *Musophaga verreauxii* (Eastern Yellow-billed Turaco)

Superspecies:

- **Species:** *Musophaga violacea* (Violet Turaco)
- **Species:** *Musophaga rossae* (Ross's Turaco)

Super Genus (sensu lato): *Tauraco*

Genus: *Proturacus*

- **Species:** *Proturacus bannermani* (Bannerman's Turaco)

Superspecies:

- **Species:** *Proturacus erythrolophus* (Red-crested Turaco)
- **Species:** *Proturacus leucolophus* (White-crested Turaco)

Genus (sensu stricto): *Tauraco*

Sub-Genus:

- **Species:** *Tauraco emini* (Eastern Black-billed Turaco)
- **Species:** *Tauraco hartlaubi* (Hartlaub's Turaco)

Superspecies:

- **Species:** *Tauraco persa* (Persa/Eastern Green Turaco)
- **Species:** *Tauraco buffoni* (Western Green Turaco/Buffon's)

Superspecies (sensu lato)

Superspecies (sensu stricto):

- **Species:** *Tauraco fischeri* (Fischer's Turaco)
- **Species:** *Tauraco reichenowi* (Reichenow's Turaco)

Superspecies (sensu stricto):

- **Species:** *Tauraco corythaix* (Knysna Turaco)
- **Species:** *Tauraco livingstonii* (Livingstone's Turaco)

Sub-Genus:

- **Species:** *Tauraco schuettii* (Black-billed Turaco)

Superspecies (sensu lato):

- **Species:** *Tauraco chalcophaps* (Ngorongoro Turaco)

Superspecies (sensu stricto):

- **Species:** *Tauraco schalowi* (Schalow's Turaco)
- **Species:** *Tauraco marungensis* (Zambia Turaco)
- **Species:** *Tauraco loitatus* (Loita Turaco)

Subfamily (sensu lato):

Subfamily: *Corythaeolinae*

Genus: *Corythaeola*

- **Species:** *Coryth. cristata* (Great Blue Turaco)

Subfamily (sensu stricto): *Criniferinae*

Genus (sensu lato): *Crinifer*

- **Species:** *Cr. leucogaster* (White-bellied Go-away Bird)

Superspecies:

- **Species:** *Cr. piscator* (Western Grey Plantain Eater)
- **Species:** *Cr. zonurus* (Eastern Grey Plantain Eater)
- **Species:** *Cr. personatus* (Bare-faced Go-away Bird)
- **Species:** *Cr. concolor* (Grey Go-away Bird)

There are three subfamilies: *Musophaginae*, *Corythaeolinae*, and *Criniferinae*. *Corythaeolinae* and *Criniferinae* are considered to be more closely related to each other than to *Musophaginae*.

As classification groups are in flux, when a group is labeled with the term "sensu lato" that means the classification grouping is in a broader sense and more inclusive, and the species listed below it are generally related than not. The term "sensu stricto" means that it is even more specific as to the relationships and who is related to whom.