

Lady Ross's Turaco

Scientific Name: *Musophaga rossae*

Class: Aves

Order: Cuculiformes

Family: Musophagidae



Pigeon-like bird about 20 inches long whose body is blackish and wings and tail more dark violet. The bird has a glassy overall appearance. Outstanding characteristics are a crimson head crest, a brilliant yellow face and bill, and crimson flight feathers.

Range

Central Africa (Angola, Zambia, Kenya, Camerons, Central Africa Republic, etc.)

Habitat

Evergreen forest canopy

Gestation

Incubation 24-26 days

Litter

Clutch size: 1-2 eggs

Behavior

Tend to be in pairs or small flocks. Tends to be sedentary, cannot fly very well. Spends its time running around trees inconspicuously and silently. The only time they seem to be around is their hoarse "caw" cry.

Reproduction

Both sexes build a nest of twigs in trees at least 8 or more feet above the ground. The breeding season varies by country but tends to be fall. The chicks grow fast and by 30 days leave the nest trees supervised by their parents.

Wild Diet

Fruit, berries, shoots, occasional termites and snails