Recognizing the wing flight feathers of Turkey and Peafowl

The large wing flight feathers of Turkey (Meleagris gallopavo) and Indian Peafowl (Pavo cristatus) are used as adornment to crafts, often as substitutes for eagle feathers. These galliform feathers may be confused with the flight feathers of swans, cranes, herons, pelicans, and raptors.

Close examination will distinguish Turkey and Peafowl feathers from the feathers of protected species. The following three characteristics are apparent on the wing flight feathers of Turkey and Peafowl and are visible whether the feather is natural (white or patterned) or dyed.

1) The feathers are highly cambered.

![Feather comparison](image1.png)

2) The upper surface of the rachis on galliform feathers has longitudinal lines, parallel to the length of the rachis. These lines are particularly visible at the base of the pennaceous vanes.

![Feather detail](image2.png)

3) The undersurface of the rachis on galliform feathers has a strongly U-shaped groove.

![Feather detail](image3.png)