

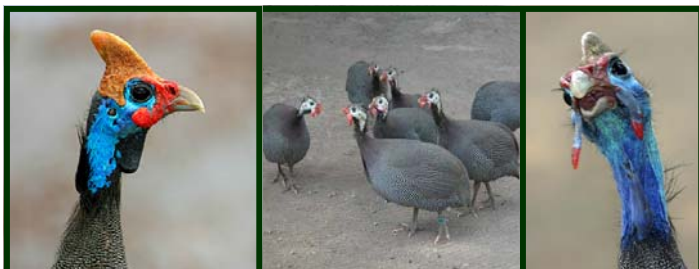


HELMETED GUINEA-FOWL

Numida meleagris



The helmeted guinea-fowl is closely related to pheasants. These birds have a wattle on each side of their beak and a horny "helmet" on top of their brightly colored head. They have a bead-like, white-on-black design on the feathers of their body. These noisy birds usually live in large groups. They are capable of flight, but prefer to spend most of their time on the ground. In forested areas they will roost in trees at night. In the wild, as many as 2,000 helmeted guinea-fowl have been found roosting together in a tree. The large flocks break up into smaller groups during breeding season. Females incubate 12-15 eggs for 24 to 30 days.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The cape grysbok stands about 21 inches tall at the shoulder, and averages about two feet in length.

WEIGHT

The cape grysbok ranges between 18 and 30 pounds in weight.

FOOD HABITS

Like other gallinaceous birds, the helmeted guinea-fowl feeds on seeds and grains.

HABITAT

The preferred habitat of this species is savanna and scrubland.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The helmeted guinea-fowl is found throughout most of Africa, although it is not found in desert or heavy forest regions.

FUN FACT

Usually seen in large flocks, these birds walk through the bush in a single file line and imitate whatever the leader does.