

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

One of the most common birds in Africa, there are estimated to be more than 1 Million Helmeted Guineafowl in Africa. They are found in most African countries south of the Sahara Desert.

Comical looking and almost always making a noise, the Helmeted Guineafowl is well known throughout the world and its feathers are always in demand. They are found in a wide range of habitats mainly in open country and easily adapt to new areas. This is part of the reason their numbers are so high.

They are monogamous during the breeding season but this bond is not maintained outside the breeding season. The nest is a simple scrape in the ground lined with grass and feathers, usually situated in long grass or hidden under a bush or dense cover. Up to 50 eggs have been recorded in one nest but this is due to more than 1 female laying in it. Chick mortality is high and mothers with youngsters join larger flocks when the chicks are 1 – 3 months old.



Lifespan: 15 Years

Weight: 1150 - 1600 g

Size: 53 - 63 cm

Breeding Season: Varies according to Rainy Season

Incubation Period: 24 - 28 Days

Number of Chicks: 6 - 12

Diet: Omnivorous. Seeds, Tubers, Bulbs, Roots, Berries, Flowers, Grasshoppers and Insects

Problems They Face: Pesticides

Conservation Status: Not Globally Threatened