**Scientific Name**
*Guttera pucherani*

**Other Names**
None

**Range**
Africa, from Senegal in the west to southern Somalia, south through eastern Kenya to central Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia

**Habitat**
Open woodlands, thickets and forest edges

**Description**
A chicken sized bird with dark grey to black plumage with white spots. The head and neck are bare except for a mop-like crest of black feathers on top of the head. The skin around the eyes is red while the rest of the neck is blue.

**Average Size**
Length: 20 in.
Weight: 4 lbs.

**Lifespan**
In the wild: 10 years
In captivity: 10 – 15 years

**Diet**
In the wild: Insects, seeds and roots
In captivity: Insects and prepared fowl diet

**Clutch Size**
3 – 4 eggs

**Incubation**
23 days

**Fledging Period**
30 days

**Sexual Maturity**
6 months to 1 year

**Predators**
Monkeys, genets, wild cats, crows and birds of prey

**Population Status**
Not threatened

---

**Behavior**
Crested Guineafowl are terrestrial, social birds that are commonly found in flocks of roughly 20 that, due to their non-territoriality, may include a variety of other bird species as well. They are fairly talkative in their groups, making soft “clucking” noises as they forage for food by scratching though the dirt like chickens. Although they are a non-migratory species, Crested Guineafowl will travel considerable distances searching for food and have even been documented following monkey troops through the forest for dropped fruit. These birds are crepuscular, primarily active in the early morning and early evening. The flock retires to the shade during the heat of the afternoon, and then resumes the search for food until just before dark when they head up into the low branches to roost for the night.

**Reproduction and Breeding**
In the wild, Crested Guineafowl breed year round, and although nesting is generally paired with one of the two rainy seasons, breeding seasonality does not fit into any well set pattern. Aggression amongst the males is the first sign of breeding, followed by courtship feeding and males’ darting around in front of females’ and spreading their wings. Long lasting, monogamous bonds are developed at this time. The female creates the nest by making a shallow depression in the dirt, sometimes lined with vegetation or feathers, and incubates the eggs on her own while the male stands guard. All of the chicks hatch at the same time (synchronously) to deter predation on younger, smaller offspring. The hatchlings are precocial (able to survive on their own right away) but both parents guard their young and provide guidance on where to forage for food until they are well grown. The birds return to the larger flocks when the young are mature enough to fend for themselves.

**Conservation**
Crested Guineafowl are considered a species of least concern by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) due to their large range and abundant numbers in the wild. Guineafowl are legal and popular pets in many areas of the world, including California.
**Amazing Facts**
Guineafowl are sometimes used to control ticks.

Chicks are born with white-stripe markings from neck to tail.