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Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
Helmeted guineafowl: p 219.

Helmeted Guinea fowl *Numida meleagris* (Linnaeus 1758)
1920 Wanganui

“The Rev. R. Taylor states that guinea-fowls were first introduced by the early missionaries, who brought them to the Bay of Islands. The Canterbury Society received a number of these birds from India in the early sixties, from Messrs Guise Brittain and Cracroft Wilson. They presented six to Mr H. Redwood of Nelson in 1864. The Otago Society introduced 23 in 1867, and distributed them to various private individuals. But they failed to reproduce themselves, and are still extremely rare in Otago, even as poultry. Apparently the winter climate is too severe for them in most parts.

In the North Island private individuals liberated them at several points, but they do not seem to have established themselves commonly as wild birds. I am informed, however, that in the Aberfeldy district, about 40 miles inland from Wanganui, they are not uncommon. Mr Holman, curator of the Whangarei Acclimatisation Society, tells me that guinea-fowls attack and drive away harrier hawks” (Thomson 1922).

They were unsuccessfully introduced to the Bay of Islands and Nelson in 1864, Canterbury in the early 1860s, and Otago in 1867. Hutton (1871) said they were not wild. They were reportedly common in the Aberfeldy district of Wanganui in the 1920s (Thomson 1922). Heather & Robertson (1996) stated they were feral in Northland, Waikato, Rotorua and Wanganui. The Atlas (Robertson et al. 2007) recorded them in 28 squares (1%), particularly concentrated around the Auckland area.

