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Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Tufted guineafowl: pp 133-134.



TUFTED GUINEAFOWL

Family Phasianidae

Species *Numida meleagris*

Common name Tufted Guineafowl

Status Introduced

Abundance Uncommon

Size 600 mm (House Sparrow 145 mm, Wild Turkey 1200 mm).

Habitat Open pasture and rough areas of scattered vegetation.

New Zealand range On farmland mostly in Northland, Rotorua, Hawkes Bay, Wanganui and North Canterbury.

Description

Face Blue-grey bare skin with red wattles below bill. **Upper and underparts** Grey spotted with white. **Bill** Tan.

Conspicuous features

- Bare blue-grey face.
- Red wattles.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Usually in flocks.
- Often noisy.

Call A raucous cackle.

Nest A cup-shaped bowl among grasses. Up to twelve pinkish-buff eggs are laid.

Where to find

North Auckland – Isolated rural areas usually near farm dwellings.

South Auckland – More common in areas where subdivision is close.