

Crested Guineafowl

Kuifkoptarentaal

Guttera pucherani

The Crested Guineafowl has a wide but fragmented range in the wetter parts of sub-Saharan Africa. In southern Africa it is largely confined to the Zambezi Valley, central and southern Mozambique, southern Zimbabwe, far northern Transvaal, northern KwaZulu-Natal and northeastern Swaziland. In Namibia it is confined to the eastern Caprivi in riparian vegetation along the Kwando and Zambezi rivers and floodplains (C.J. Brown pers. comm.).

The Crested Guineafowl is congeneric with the Plumed Guineafowl *G. plumifera* of equatorial Africa. There is an isolated population in Karkloof (2930AD) in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands which is listed as an endemic subspecies *G. p. symonsi* (e.g. Clancey 1980b), but this is not universally recognized (Crowe 1978a).

It occurs in pairs or small to large flocks; group sizes are smaller during the breeding season (Urban *et al.* 1986). It is a noisy species but is not otherwise highly conspicuous in the dense habitats where it is found.

Habitat: Its habitat is forest edge, secondary forest and gallery forest (Urban *et al.* 1986). The vegetation analysis shows its association with forest and woodland habitats, but knowledge of its distribution in Mozambique would be more informative about its preferred habitat.

Movements: It is believed to be resident throughout its range. Seasonal fluctuations in reporting rate probably reflect seasonal variations in frequency of vocalizations.

Breeding: Tarboton *et al.* (1987b), Brooke (1971f) and Irwin (1981) reported spring/summer (October–February) egg-laying in the Transvaal and Zimbabwe. The atlas data confirm this pattern; late records were presumably of chicks and fledglings.

Interspecific relationships: The Crested and Helmeted *Numida meleagris* Guineafowl have different habitat requirements and therefore tend to be separated at a micro-

geographical scale, although they do occur together in places, e.g. in the Zambezi Valley (A.J. Tree pers. comm.).

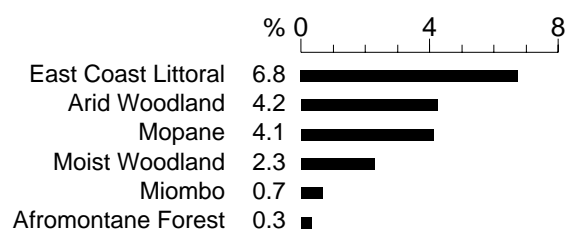
Historical distribution and conservation: There is no evidence of any extensive change in the distribution of this species although, because of its secretive behaviour, it was poorly recorded in the past, and might have been more widespread in the Transvaal.

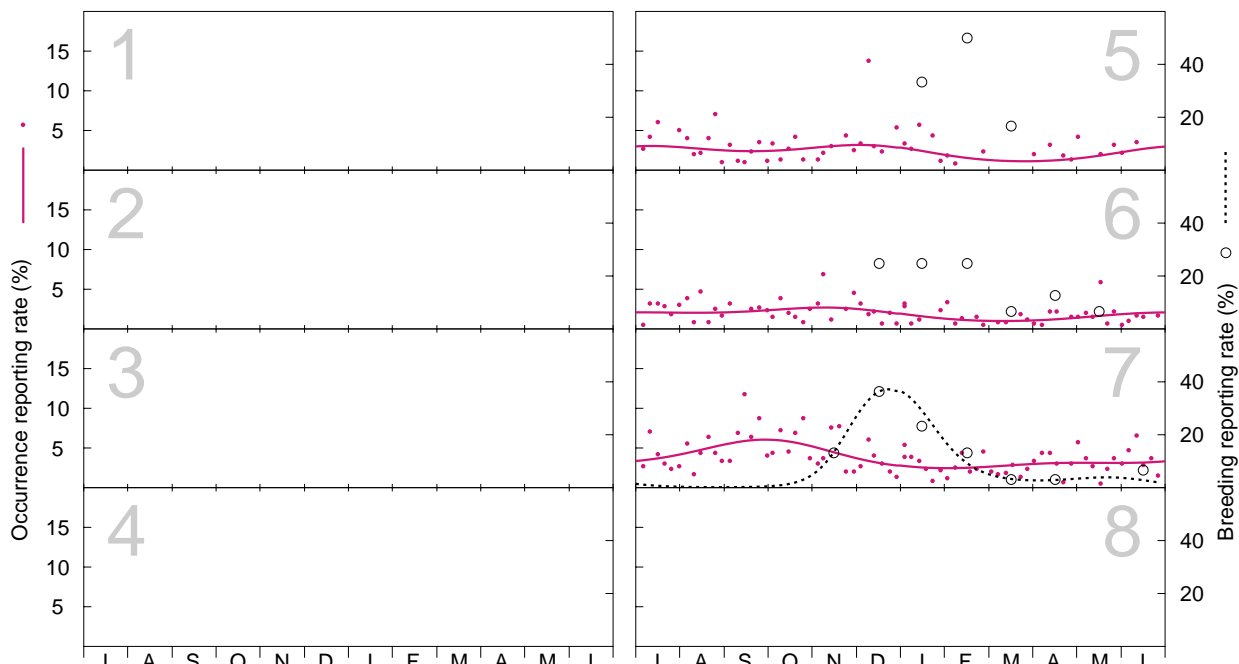
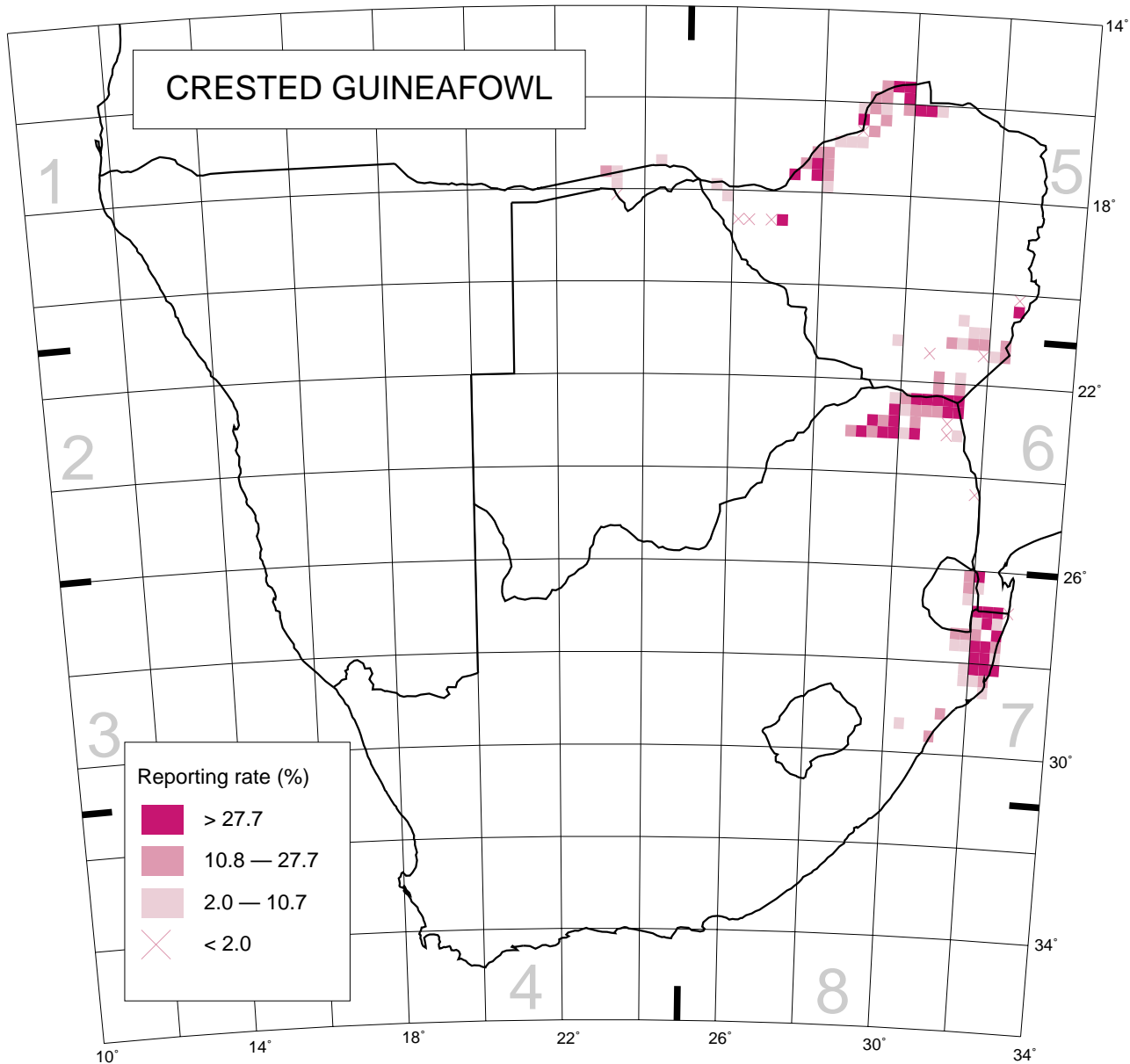
Although the Crested Guineafowl was previously considered for Red Data status, Brooke (1984b) excluded it as being neither 'rare' nor 'vulnerable' in South Africa. However, he retained it in the list of species that merit monitoring in case new or existing threats cause them to decline, particularly in the case of the endemic subspecies *symonsi*. Urban *et al.* (1986) suggested that, although it is not severely threatened, range decreases might be brought about by destruction of forest and thicket habitats. In Namibia it is considered 'rare' and under threat from deforestation (C.J. Brown pers. comm.).

R.M. Little

Recorded in 124 grid cells, 2.7%
Total number of records: 2045
Mean reporting rate for range: 24.3%

Reporting rates for vegetation types





Models of seasonality for Zones. Number of records (top to bottom, left to right):
 Occurrence: 0, 0, 0, 0, 201, 211, 732, 0; Breeding: 0, 0, 0, 0, 6, 16, 30, 0.