



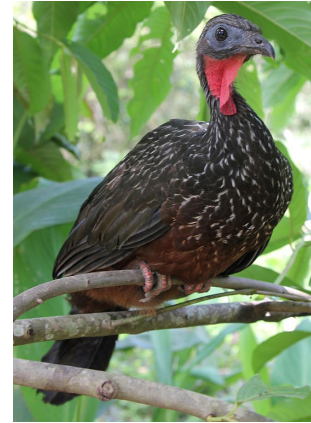
SPIX'S GUAN

Galliformes

Family: Cracidae

Genus: *Penelope*

Species: *jacquacu*



Range: found in Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela

Habitat: subtropical or moist lowland forests; humid rain and cloud forests

Niche: mainly arboreal, diurnal, primarily frugivorous

Wild diet: primarily fruits, also nuts, insects found in the upper canopy

Zoo diet:

Life Span: (Wild)
(Captive)

Sexual dimorphism:

Location in SF Zoo: South American Tropical Rainforest and Aviary

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

The Spix's guan is similar in appearance to a small, slender turkey and is adapted for the forest. Their plumage is brownish-black with white patches and they have a bright red hanging throat sac (dewlap). Legs are long with long heavy toes. Wings are blunt. Necks are very long and tails are long and broad.

Weight: 44 – 48 oz
Length: 26 – 30 in
Wingspan:

STATUS & CONSERVATION

Not globally threatened. Spix's guan is classified as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List. It has an extremely large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion. It is fairly common in its range but its numbers are decreasing

Spix's guans are rather common in the rainforests around protected areas where hunting is prohibited. In places where hunting occurs, this large bird becomes an easy, desired target and quickly disappears from such areas.

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

Spix's guan calls are typical sounds of the Amazonian dawn chorus or frequently all at night; Although Spix's Guan isn't necessarily nocturnal, they sometimes make a frightening sounding, yelling noise on moonlit nights. They give wheezing whistle-like calls when frightened and fly noisily through mid-levels of forest. The Spix's guan makes a rattling sound with its wings at dusk and dawn. It does this by stretching out the wings and shaking them as it glides from one tree to another. This display is done to attract mates.

They are nonmigratory birds and are solitary or seen in pairs in upper canopy level of moist forests. They forage in mid to upper strata but seldom descend to the ground. Small flocks often seen perched in trees at night. They may also be seen running along high branches.

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

The Spix guan nests in trees made of twigs and leafy vegetation. They are monogamous breeders where both sexes share reproductive duties. Young leave the nest soon after hatching to hide in surrounding vegetation. Unlike most species of precocial young, chicks are fed by their parents. Young can fly short distances within a few days.

Incubation: 22 – 34 days # of Eggs: 2-4	Sexual Maturity: Fledging:
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MISCELLANEOUS

The common name commemorates the German naturalist Dr. Johann Baptist Ritter von Spix (1782-1826), who collected birds in Brazil and obtained the first scientific specimens of this species.

Sources:

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[Handbook of the Birds of the World, Vol II](#) © 1996 Josep del Hoya, Lynx Edicions

[Brazil: Amazon and Pantanal](#) © 2005 David L. Pearson & Les Beletsky, Interlink Publishing Group

[The Princeton Encyclopedia of Birds](#) © 2004 Christopher Perris, Princeton University Press

http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/portal/species/overview?p_p_spp=78151

<http://www.perunature.com/spix-guan.html>