CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Common Potoo

Nyctibius griseus

Nyctibius griseus is a nocturnal bird of Central and South America that has committed entirely to a single defensive strategy: it becomes a broken branch. At dawn it settles on the top of a snapped-o…

Quick facts

Classification: Bird
Family: Nyctibiidae
Habitat: Tropical and subtropical forests, woodland edges, and savannas
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 12-14 years
Weight: 145-220 grams
Scientific name: Nyctibius griseus

Did you know?

- Despite appearing motionless and invisible during the day, Common Potoos can rotate their heads up to 180 degrees to keep watch for predators.
- Potoo eyes contain a reflective layer that shines an eerie orange in torchlight, which is often the only way to find one at night. The chick sits on …

What I learned

© Creature Atlas · www.creatureatlas.com · Free for classroom & personal use