CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Greater Roadrunner

Geococcyx californianus

Geococcyx californianus is a ground-dwelling cuckoo of the American Southwest, and almost everything the cartoon taught you is wrong: the real bird tops out around 32 km/h, well below a coyote's 60-p…

Quick facts

Classification: Bird
Family: Cuculidae
Habitat: Desert and arid scrubland
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 7-8 years in the wild
Weight: 230-430 grams
Scientific name: Geococcyx californianus

Did you know?

- The Greater Roadrunner reduces its activity at night and can lower its body temperature to conserve energy, a rare adaptation among birds.
- The black skin patch on a roadrunner's back is a solar collector, and a bird sunning this way can save roughly half the energy it would otherwise spe…

What I learned

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