CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Green Heron

Butorides virescens

Butorides virescens is one of the very small number of birds - and a smaller number still of non-corvid, non-parrot birds - that make and use tools. The heron drops bait onto the water surface: bread…

Quick facts

Classification: Bird
Family: Ardeidae
Habitat: Freshwater wetlands and forested ponds
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 5-8 years
Weight: 210-250 grams
Scientific name: Butorides virescens

Did you know?

- Green Herons have been observed using bread, insects, feathers, or other objects as bait to catch fish—a rare example of tool use in birds.
- Baiting has been recorded in green herons in Florida, Japan and elsewhere, and some birds keep a stock of bait items and reuse them. The green in gre…

What I learned

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