CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Hoatzin

Opisthocomus hoazin

The hoatzin is the only bird known to digest its food the way a cow does. It ferments leaves in a hugely enlarged crop, using bacteria to break down cellulose long before the food reaches the stomach…

Quick facts

Classification: Bird
Family: Opisthocomidae
Habitat: Tropical riverine forest, flooded forests, and mangroves
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 7-15 years
Weight: 700-900 grams
Scientific name: Opisthocomus hoazin

Did you know?

- Despite their awkward flight and poor flying ability, Hoatzin chicks can leap into water and swim to safety if threatened, using their wing claws to …
- The hoatzin ferments leaves in an enlarged crop using bacteria — the only bird known to digest food like a cow. That crop crowds out its flight muscl…

What I learned

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