CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Shoebill

Balaeniceps rex

The shoebill hunts by doing nothing. It will stand motionless in papyrus swamp for hours — so still that people routinely mistake it for a statue — waiting for a lungfish to surface for air in the ox…

Quick facts

Classification: Bird
Family: Balaenicipitidae
Habitat: Freshwater swamps and wetlands
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 35-40 years
Weight: 4-7 kg
Scientific name: Balaeniceps rex

Did you know?

- Shoebills can make a sound called a 'bill clap,' which is reminiscent of a machine gun and is used to communicate, especially during the breeding sea…
- A shoebill can stand motionless for hours, waiting for a lungfish to surface for air. It needs no speed — just one accurate lunge, and the hooked bil…

What I learned

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