CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Sunbittern

Eurypyga helias

The sunbittern (Eurypyga helias) spends most of its time as an unremarkable brown, heron-like bird stalking the edges of neotropical forest streams, and then, when threatened, it detonates. It throws…

Quick facts

Classification: Bird
Family: Eurypygidae
Habitat: Tropical forest streams and riverbanks
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 15-20 years
Weight: 170-220 g
Scientific name: Eurypyga helias

Did you know?

- The Sunbittern shares a close evolutionary relationship with the Kagu of New Caledonia, despite living on opposite sides of the world.
- Its wing eyespots turn a spread-winged bird into a giant staring face, a bluff aimed squarely at a predator's fear of eyes. Its closest living relati…

What I learned

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