

**Songbird
ReMix**

POTOOS

ALL 7 SPECIES OF POTOO



Avian Models for 3D Applications
Characters and Procedural Maps by Ken Gilliland

Songbird ReMix

POTOOS

Manual

Introduction	3
Overview and Use in Poser and DAZ Studio	3
Where to find your Birds	4
Morphs and their Use	5

Field Guide

List of Species	9
Long-tailed potoo	10
Rufous potoo	12
Great potoo	14
Common potoo or lesser potoo	16
Northern potoo	18
White-winged potoo	20
Andean potoo	22
Resources and Credits	23

Copyrighted 2018 by Ken Gilliland

www.songbirdremix.com

Opinions expressed on this booklet are solely that of the author, Ken Gilliland, and may or may not reflect the opinions of the publisher.

Songbird ReMix

POTOOS

Introduction

Potoos are a group of near passerine birds which are related to the nightjars and frogmouths. They are sometimes called “poor-me-ones”, after their haunting calls. There are seven species of Potoo and they are all found in tropical Central and South America.

Much like nightjars and frogmouths, they are nocturnal insectivores. They lack the bristles around the mouth that are found in the true nightjars. They hunt from a perch like a shrike or flycatcher. During the day they perch upright on tree branches, camouflaged to look like part of a broken branch.

Poser Overview and Use

Select **Figures** in the Runtime Folder and go to the **Animals : Songbird ReMix** folder. Here you'll find a number folders, but the two we'll look at are **Bird Base Models** and **Bird Library**. Let's look at what they are and how you use them:

- **Bird Base Models:** This folder has the blank model(s) used in this set. Loading these models are primarily used for those who wish to experiment with poses or customizing their own species of bird.
- **Bird Library:** This folder holds the actual species and poses for the “premade” birds. Birds are placed into a “type” folder (such as “*Birds of Prey (Order Falconiformes)*” which would hold falcons, hawks and eagles for example). The set for this set can be found in the following folder(s):
 - ***Nightjars and Frogmouths (Order Caprimulgiformes)***

Select the bird from the renderer (*Firefly or Superfly*) folder you want and simply click it to load. Some birds in the Songbird ReMix series may load with attached parts (*Conformers*) such as tail or crest extensions. Some of these parts have specific morphs. You will need to click on the attached part to access those controls. Associated poses can be found in the **Bird Library : (Type) : Poses** folder.

DAZ Studio Overview and Use

Go to the **Animals : Songbird ReMix** folder. Here you'll find a number folders, but the two we'll look at are **Bird Base Models** and **Bird Library**. Let's look at what they are and how you use them:

- **Bird Base Models:** This folder has the blank model(s) used in this set. Loading these models are primarily used for those who wish to experiment with poses or customizing their own species of bird.

- **Bird Library:** This folder holds the actual species and poses for the “premade” birds. Birds are placed into a “type” folder (such as “*Birds of Prey (Order Falconiformes)*” which would hold falcons, hawks and eagles for example). The folder for this set can be found in the following folder(s):
 - ***Nightjars and Frogmouths (Order Caprimulgiformes)***

Select the bird from the renderer (*3Delight* or *Iray*) folder you want and simply click it to load. Some birds in the Songbird ReMix series may load with attached parts (*Conformers*) such as tail or crest extensions. Some of these parts have specific morphs. You will need to click on the attached part to access those controls. Associated poses can be found in the **Bird Library : (Type) : Poses** folder.

Where to find your birds

Type Folder	Bird Species
<i>Nightjars and Frogmouths (Order Caprimulgiformes)</i>	Long-tailed potoo Rufous potoo Great potoo Common potoo or lesser potoo Northern potoo White-winged potoo Andean potoo

Where to find your poses

Type Folder	For what species?
<i>Nightjars and Frogmouths (Order Caprimulgiformes)</i>	Potoos

Morphs and their Use

All Songbird ReMix models have morphs that change the look of the loaded model to achieve additional movements and expressions that joint movements can't achieve. These are referred to in the Songbird ReMix model as "Action Morphs". Other morphs that are included can subtly or sometimes dramatically, alter the model to resemble specific species. These morphs are referred to as "Creation Morphs".

- **Action Morphs**

- **Common Controls**

- ◆ Beak Open Close- *Opens and closes the beak.*
- ◆ Eyes Forward-Back- *Moves both eyes forwards and backwards.*
- ◆ Eyes Up-Down- *Moves both eyes up and down.*
- ◆ EyeDilate- *Dilates and constricts the pupil of both eyes. Individual eye dilation morphs should be set to "0" for best results.*
- ◆ Eyelids Close-Open- *Closes both eyelids. This is a group control of both individual wink morphs. Wink morphs should be set to "0" for best results.*
- ◆ Wings Fold- *Folds both wings. This is a group control of both individual wing fold morphs. Individual WingFold morphs should be set to "0" for best results.*
- ◆ Tail Feathers Fan Spread- *Spreads and folds the tail feathers.*

- **Neck Bending and Scaling**

- ◆ Twist All- *Twists all neck and head sections in unison.*
- ◆ Side-Side All- *Turns all neck and head sections to each side in unison.*
- ◆ Bend All- *Bends all neck and head sections in unison.*
- ◆ Scrunch Neck- *Scrunches and stretches the neck.*

- **Head Controls**

- ◆ **Asymmetrical Pupils**

- Left and Right Constrict/Dilate Pupils- *Allows the individual control of pupil dilation and constriction which many of the Potoo species can control. The master eye dilation control should be set to "0" for best results*

- ◆ **Potoo Peek**

- Potoo Peek Left and Right Eye- *Allows angular cracks in the upper eyelids when eyelids are closed*

- ◆ **Expressions**

- Smile Frown- *Controls a slight smile and frown expression on the beak.*
- Eyes Angry-Sad- *Rolls eyelids forward and back to give an angry/sad expression.*
- Eyes -Sleepy- *Lowers both top eyelids. This is a group control of both individual wink morphs. Wink and Eyelids Close-Open morphs should be set to "0" for best results.*
- Eyes-Wince- *Raises both top eyelids. This is a group control of both individual wink morphs. Wink and Eyelids Close-Open morphs should be set to "0" for best results.*
- Head -Brow Out- *Pushes the front portion of the brow out.*

- ◆ **Eyelid Movement**

- Eyes-RightWink and Eyes-LeftWink- *Controls either eyelid to open and close. This morph may not work properly if EyeLidsCloseOpen, Eyes-Sleepy or Eyes-Wince is used. For best results these controls should be zeroed first.*

- ◆ **Tongue Movement**

- Tongue Curve Down- *Moves the entire tongue in a bending curve down.*

- Tongue Up-Down- *Moves the entire tongue up and down from the back of the throat.*
 - Tongue Side- *Moves the entire tongue side to side.*
 - Tongue Tip Up-Down- *Moves the tongue up and down from its tip.*
- **Wing & Tail Controls**
 - Wings Bend Tips- *Bends both wing tips. This control only works when the wings are unfolded.*
 - Wings Turn Tips- *Turns the primary flight feathers of both wings. This control only works when the wings are unfolded.*
 - Wings Fan Primaries- *Fans the primary flight feathers of both wings. This control only works when the wings are unfolded.*
 - Wings Smooth Bend- *Creates a smoother (than joint usage) upward bend on both wings. This control only works when the wings are unfolded.*
 - Wings Alula Brake- *Pulls out the alula brake feathers on both wings. This control only works when the wings are unfolded.*
 - Tail Feathers Cup Down- *Cups the tail feathers downward.*
- **Left Wing and Right Wing Individual Controls.** *These controls are the same as the ones above but for individual wings. The WingsFold morph must be at "0" for these controls to work. The individual wing controls would most likely be used in a bird stretching with one wing.*
- **Feather Fluff Controls**
 - **Forehead Bristles-** *Bristles are species dependent. Some species do not have forehead bristles.*
 - ◆ Bristles Length- *Controls the length of the bristles.*
 - ◆ Bristles Up- *Lifts bristles upwards.*
 - ◆ Bristles Horns- *Raises length of the bristles above the eye area.*
 - ◆ Nightjar Whiskers- *Bends the bristles downward on each side of the neak..*
 - **Head and Neck Fluff**
 - ◆ Eyelash Length- *Controls the length of the eyelashes.*
 - ◆ Fluff-Crest Up1- *Lifts head crest/fluff upwards.*
 - ◆ Fluff-Crest Up2- *Lifts head crest/fluff upwards with more curve.*
 - ◆ Fluff-Crest Length - *Controls the length of the head crest/fluff.*
 - ◆ Fluff-Throat Out- *Lifts throat fluff outwards.*
 - ◆ Fluff-Neck Length - *Controls the length of the neck fluff.*
 - ◆ Fluff-Neck Out- *Lifts neck fluff outwards.*
 - **Breast and Rump Fluff**
 - ◆ Breast Fluff- *Pull the breast fluff out.*
 - ◆ Rump Fluff Hide- *Hides the rump fluff.*
 - ◆ Rump Fluff Sides In- *Pulls the rump fluff sides in.*
 - **Back Feathers**
 - ◆ Back Plume1 Raise- *Raises the first set of fluff feathers on the back.*
 - ◆ Back Plume2 Raise- *Raises the second set of fluff feathers on the back.*
 - ◆ Back Plume3 Raise- *Raises the third set of fluff feathers on the back.*
 - **Thigh Fluff**
 - ◆ Leg Fluff Back- *Pulls the thigh fluff backwards.*
 - ◆ Leg Fluff Expand- *Pulls the thigh fluff outward.*
 - ◆ Leg Fluff Len- *Controls the length of the thigh fluff.*
- **Correction Morphs**
 - Thighs In for Flight- *Reduces Thigh Fluff for in-flight poses.*

- Top Neck Scrunch Fix- *Reduces issues in the top of the neck (Hip, Neck1, Neck2 and Neck3) caused by bending backwards or the Small Head morph.*
- Throat Lump Fix- *Reduces a lump in the throat caused by some bending and/or morphs that are activated.*
- Belly Out- *Expands the belly of the bird.*
- Neck Front Expand- *Expands the base of the neck tapering to the throat out.*
- **Creation Morphs**
 - **Species Shapes** *(The use of other Creation Morphs in combination with these morphs may cause geometry issues and should be approached with care,)*
 - ◆ Nighthawk- *Reshapes the head for Nighthawk and Nightjar species. This morph activates a hidden lengthening on the wings (morph), when they are folded.*
 - **Body Shaping**
 - ◆ Sleeker Body- *Reduces some girth to the torso.*
 - ◆ Thin Torso- *Thins the torso and raises the legs.*
 - ◆ Breast In- *Reduces/Adds to breast shape.*
 - ◆ Flatten Back- *Flattens the back for in-flight poses.*
 - ◆ Thicker Neck- *Thickens the neck. This morph goes automatically into effect when the neck is "Scrunched".*
 - ◆ Top Neck Expand- *Thickens the entire upper neck*
 - ◆ Lower Neck Expand- *Thickens the top of the Hip, Neck1 and Neck2 sections*
 - ◆ Breast Crease- *Adds a breast crease.*
 - ◆ Scale Rump- *Reduces and extends the rump.*
 - ◆ Back Plume3 Length- *Extends the back fluff feather over the tail feathers.*
 - ◆ Back Plume3 Width- *Widens the back fluff feathers.*
 - ◆ Leg Length- *Reduces the leg length.*
 - ◆ Foot Size- *Scales the foot size.*
 - ◆ Massive Talons- *Lengthens the talons.*
 - **Head Shaping**
 - ◆ **Head Shapes**
 - Small Head- *Reduces the size of the head, eye and neck parts by 35%.*
 - Potoo Crown- *Raises the back of the head in a fashion found on the Potoo species.*
 - Crown Rounder & CrownRounder2- *Adjusts the height of the crown.*
 - Raise Back Head- *Raises the rear of the head.*
 - Forehead Out- *Pushes the forehead out.*
 - Pull Forehead- *Lessens the bridge of the forehead.*
 - Push Forehead- *Increases the bridge of the forehead.*
 - Big Brows- *Extends both brows outwards.*
 - Front Brows- *Pushes the front brows out.*
 - Throat In- *Pushes the entire throat closer to the lower beak.*
 - ◆ **Beak Shapes**
 - Beak-Shorten- *Shortens the entire beak.*
 - Beak-Thinner- *Reduces the upper and lower heights of the beak.*
 - Beak-Narrow- *Narrows the end of the entire beak.*
 - Beak-Lower Thinner- *Reduces the lower beak's width.*
 - Beak-Tip Length- *Lengthens the tip of the upper beak.*

- Beak-RoundedTip- *Rounds or flatten the end of the upper beak.*
- Beak-BiggerHook- *Creates a large beak hook.*
- ◆ **Eye & Nostril Shapes**
 - Bug Eyes- *Pushes the eyes and eye sockets out.*
 - Nostril-Slit- *Thins the shape of the nostrils.*
 - Nostril-Round- *Rounds the shape of the nostrils.*
 - Nostril-Cones- *Raises the rim of the nostrils.*
- ◆ **Tongue Shapes**
 - TongueLength- *Controls the length of the tongue.*
- **Wing Shapes**
 - ◆ Wing Span- *Extends the wingspan.*
 - ◆ Wing Width- *Expand the wing width.*
 - ◆ Wings Point- *Tapers the wing ends.*
 - ◆ Hawk Wing Shape1- *Extends and retracts the primary flight feathers.*
 - ◆ Hawk Wing Shape2- *Adds a more hawk-like shape to the wings.*
- **Tail Shapes**
 - ◆ Tail Fan Style- *creates the shape of the tail spread. 1=Fan, 0=Wedge.*
 - ◆ Tail Feathers Length- *Controls the length of the tail feathers.*
 - ◆ Tail Feathers Width- *Controls the width of the tail feathers.*
 - ◆ Tail Feathers Round- *Creates a round-shape for the tail feathers.*
 - ◆ Split Tail Feathers- *Creates a wedge-shape for the tail feathers.*
 - ◆ Long-tailed Nightjar- *Creates a species specific tail.*
 - ◆ Graduated Tail Feathers- *Graduates the tail feathers length from short (outside) to long (inside).*
 - ◆ Square Ends Tail Feathers - *Makes tail feathers have square ends.*
- **Scaling**
 - ◆ Scale- *Controls the size of the model. The scale is proportional to the standard human characters in Poser and DAZ Studio.*

Morphs specifically used for Potoos

Asymmetrical Pupils

Potoos are capable of asymmetrically dilating and constricting their pupils so obviously the *rEyeDilate* and *lEyeDilate* dials found in the Actions Controls (Head Controls / Asymmetrical Pupils) section can be used to create that effect. These dials can only be used when the master Eyes Dilate control is set to “0”.

Potoo Peek

Potoos can slight raise portions of their upper eyelids in order to “peek” at their surroundings without revealing their bright “headlight-like” irises. The *rPotooPeek* and *lPotooPeek* dials found in the Actions Controls (Head Controls / Potoo Peak) section can be used to create that effect. These dials can only be used when the master Eyelid Close control is set to “1”.

POTOOS

Field Guide

Long-tailed potoo

Rufous potoo

Great potoo

Common potoo or lesser potoo

Northern potoo

White-winged potoo

Andean potoo

Long-tailed potoo

Nyctibius aethereus

Size: 16.5-22 inches (42-56 cm); **Wingspan:** 27.6-35 inches (70-89 cm)



Habitat: South America; The core range of the long-tailed potoo is the contiguous region of the entire northwestern and southwestern Amazon Basin. In the northern portion of South America, the range is in the eastern regions of Venezuela's Orinoco River drainage and the highlands bordering Guyana; in Guyana, the range extends into the eastern portions of the Essequibo River drainage to the border with Suriname. The contiguous range extends southward through Andean and Amazonian portions of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests.

Status: Least Concern. **Global population:** Unknown amount of adult individuals with a decreasing population trend. The population size of Long-tailed Potoo is believed to be in decline due to ongoing deforestation in South America. Little original forest remains in the Atlantic forest. In two decades, Long-tailed Potoo is estimated to lose 13.3-17.5% of suitable habitat throughout its distribution if Amazonian deforestation models are accurate. This would cause a decline of greater than 25% in the global population size.

Diet: It is a nocturnal insectivore (primarily flying termites, moths, and beetles) that hunts from a perch like a shrike or flycatcher.

Nesting: Sexes are similar. The forecrown, crown, and nape are tawny brown, speckled and spotted with buff, with bold blackish brown streaks or spots. There is no collar is present around hind neck. The mantle, back, and rump are tawny brown, mottled with brown and buff, and streaked with blackish brown with upturned feather tips on greater coverts. The upper tail coverts tawny or tawny brown, boldly vermiculated with brown. The tail is strongly graduated brown, with the rectrices broadly barred with tawny buff bars and streaked or vermiculated with brown. The central pair of tail feathers have pointed

tips. The tail is over 50% to about 66% of the body length.

The primary coverts are brown or faintly barred with tawny. The upper and outer rows of lesser coverts blackish brown, rest of lesser coverts buff, pale buff, or whitish, forming a distinctive pale panel across shoulders. The rest of wing coverts are brown, densely mottled with pale buff, buff, and tawny. The scapulars are tawny brown, mottled with buff, tawny and brown, streaked with blackish brown. The primaries and secondaries are brown, broadly barred with pale tawny. The tertials are tawny-brown, mottled brown, tawny and buff. The lores and auriculars are tawny, speckled with brown. There is a bold buffish submoustachial stripe, becoming broader along the sides of the throat. The chin and throat are grayish buff, speckled with brown. The breast, upper belly, and flanks are brown or grayish brown, speckled with buff, streaked with blackish brown, and boldly spotted with buff and blackish brown. The lower belly and under-tail coverts are buff, streaked and vermiculated brown. The under wing coverts brown barred buff.

The long-tailed potoo does not construct a nest and instead uses "a slight depression on top of a vertical tree stump, in a snag protruding from a tree trunk, or at the bend of a sloping branch" The clutch consists of one egg. The incubation period is 3-4 weeks, the fledgling period 7-8 weeks, and a chick will be left unattended at an age of 17-29 days.

Cool Facts: This large and proportionately long-tailed potoo species is rarely seen. It is most likely to be first detected by voice, a soft, undulating *waa-OO-uh*, which is quite different from that of other species of potoo.



Rufous potoo

Nyctibius bracteatus

Size: 8.3-9.8 inches (21-25 cm);
Wingspan: 17.3-20.1 inches
(44-51 cm)

Habitat: South America; found in Ecuador (the northeast, about 25% of the country) and Peru in the largest population, and the other large disjunct population 1600 km southwest at the Peru and Bolivia border (about 1/30 of Peru). Other far smaller locales occur in Brazil, Colombia, French Guiana, and Guyana.

Its natural habitat is the under-story and middle-story of primary and well-developed secondary lowland terra-firme rainforest and also swampy *campinarana* palm forests. It favors forests with either a sandy component to the soil, deeply weathered clays in black-water regions or other nutrient-poor soils. It is often found around natural tree falls.

Status: Least Concern.

Global population: Unknown amount of adult individuals with a decreasing population trend owing to ongoing habitat destruction. Until around the 1980s, very few people had managed to see one alive; however, they are currently regarded as a least concern by the IUCN due to their large range.

Diet: It is a nocturnal insectivore, consuming *Coleoptera*, *Orthoptera*, *Lepidoptera*, *Hymenoptera* and *Neuroptera*. It forages like other potoos, with short upward or outward directed sallies, typically returning to same perch.



Nesting: Sexes are similar. The smallest and atypically colored potoo; overall deep orange-rufous coloration (perhaps paler on throat, under-tail coverts and under-tail), with large white spots narrowly bordered in black on upper belly, scapulars and under-tail coverts. It has barred tail; long bristles emanating from loreal region. It has a yellow iris (sometimes appearing white) has dark wedge in the lowest portion. Immature plumage duller and browner without white spots, or white markings much smaller, more typical of adults of other potoo species. Juvenile has upper-parts cinnamon, with some rufous feathers, finely barred and vermiculated brown, boldly spotted blackish brown on crown, nape, back and wing-coverts; underparts probably similar to upper-parts, though throat apparently greyish white. The iris is pale yellow.

Only three nest areas have been discovered; one from NC Brazil, occupied Sept to Dec, and two from French Guiana, nest with egg in Oct and nest with chick in Feb (i.e. middle to late dry season). It lays a single blotched egg atop broken stub (c. 3–4 cm in diameter at top). A egg has found twice in spiny palms, inside rainforest, c. 2–2.5 m above ground in two French Guiana. Both adults participated in nesting tasks; fledgling, not yet adult size, still fed by parents away from nest. Incubation and fledging periods unknown precisely, but perhaps 1-2 months as in other *Nyctibius* species.

Cool Facts: The rufous potoo is the smallest member of its genus.

Despite its very striking plumage, this small potoo is extremely difficult to spot, without very detailed knowledge of where an individual is roosting. The Rufous Potoo is found in the under-story, where during the day the bird rocks back and forth on its perch, thereby heightening its resemblance to a dead leaf. They sing almost exclusively on full moons.



Great potoo

Nyctibius grandis

Size: 17.7-22.4 inches (45-57 cm); **Wingspan:** 15.4-15.8 inches (39.1-40.2 cm)

Habitat: Central and South America; from the southern-most part of Mexico to northern South America.



Its favored habitat is in the canopy of lowland forested habitats, including tropical rainforest (both terra firme and várzea). It is also found in the gallery forest in areas of savanna or cerrado; and forest patches, old second growth, and tree (e.g. shade-coffee) plantations in moderately disturbed areas. It is found most often along rivers and lakes and at night, it regularly ventures into clearings or open areas near forest to forage, and has even been recorded close to artificial lights in urban areas, presumably attracted by the possible foraging opportunities. It roosts during the day in canopy of large, often bare trees, where it resembles a large pale stump or termite nest. It is generally recorded below 1,300 ft (400 m), but recorded above this elevation in Colombia's Magdalena Valley, to 3,300 ft (1000 m) in Peru and to 3,400 ft (1050 m) in central Bolivia.

Status: Least Concern. **Global population:** Unknown amount of adult individuals with a decreasing population trend.

Diet: It is a nocturnal insectivore feeding on beetles (*Coleoptera*, including *Cerambycidae*, *Hydrophiidae*, *Passalidae* and *Lamellicornia*), large katydids and grasshoppers (*Orthoptera*), and other flying insects; may sometimes capture small bats. It forages at night with flycatcher-like sallies from exposed perches in forest canopy (usually at least 8–10 m above ground) or posts in clearings (sometimes just 1–5 m above ground). Each sally may be several

metres long, directed at a single flying prey item; bird often returns to same perch after sally.

Nesting: Sexes alike. Largest and bulkiest of the potoos, looking relatively big-headed and owl-like; much larger, larger-headed and paler than *N. jamaicensis* and *N. griseus*; compared to *N. aethereus*, which can be almost equal size, present species best distinguished in being paler. It is the palest and most variable potoo in overall color, ranging from buffy-brown to nearly white. The iris is brown to dark brown or chestnut. Juveniles are nearly pure white. The coloration and marking of the races are weakly defined and are mostly based on subtle, perhaps clinical, differences in size. *N. g. guatemalensis*, is said to have longer wings and tail than nominate (female wing 40.2 cm, tail 28.2 cm, versus 39.1 cm and 25.7 cm, respectively in nominate), with richer brown back that is less vermiculated dusky.

The species is presumed monogamous. Nesting occurs at various times of year with no described pattern of seasonality. Nests are usually located at bend or in crevice along upper surface of heavy, horizontal or diagonal branch in canopy. The female lays one egg, which is white with dark brown, gray and lilac blotches, mostly near broad end. The male incubates during day, with the incubation period at approximately one month. The fledging period lasts nearly two months. The nestling is covered in all-white down, but some juvenile feathers on back and wings will start to appear when it is 2 weeks old. The nestling is first left alone at about 28–29 days old, by which time it may start to move around on tree.

Cool Facts: Subspecies and Distribution:

- *N. g. guatemalensis*. First reported by Land & Schultz in 1963. Found in extreme Southern Mexico, Guatemala, and possibly Honduras.
- *N. g. grandis*. First reported by J. F. Gmelin in 1789. Found in Nicaragua, South to Northern South America, where it is found mostly East of Andes throughout Amazonia to Northern Paraguay, and in Southeastern Brazil. It may occur locally between Amazonia and Atlantic Forest regions.



Common potoo or lesser potoo

Nyctibius griseus

Size: 13-15 inches (33–38 cm); **Wingspan:** 30.7 inches (78 cm)

Habitat: Central and South America; breeds in tropical Central and South America from Nicaragua to northern Argentina and northern Uruguay.

It is a resident breeder in open woodlands and savanna. It avoids cooler montane regions, rarely occurring over 1,900 m above sea level even in the hottest parts of its range. Also, arid regions are usually avoided. In gallery forest-type environment around the Uruguayan-Brazilian border, it is by no means uncommon. A bit further south, where the amount of wood- versus grassland is somewhat lower, it is decidedly rare, and due west, in the Entre Ríos Province of Argentina with its abundant riparian forest it is likewise not common. The birds at the southern end of their range may migrate short distances northwards in winter.

Status: Least Concern. **Global population:** Unknown amount of adult individuals with a decreasing population trend (>30% decline over ten years or three generations).

Diet: It is a nocturnal insectivore (primarily flying termites, moths, and beetles) that hunts from a perch like a shrike or flycatcher.

During the day, it perches upright on a tree stump, and is completely invisible, looking like part of the stump because it stays so completely still as it perches. If disturbed by larger animals, such as common marmosets it may break its camouflage and try to chase them away however. If disturbed by a human being, their behaviors can be quite variable: quickly flying away, trying to intimidate the intruder by opening the beak, or remaining still even when being touched.

Nesting: Sexes are similar in appearance. **Gray morph:** Fore-crown, crown, and nape grayish brown, broadly streaked with blackish brown. Back grayish brown, speckled with brown, and streaked and spotted with blackish brown. Scapulars grayish brown mottled with whitish, streaked and spotted with blackish brown. Rump grayish brown speckled with brown, streaked and spotted with blackish brown. Upper-tail coverts brown, barred with grayish brown. Rectrices brown,



broadly barred with grayish brown or grayish white. Lesser wing coverts blackish brown; median wing coverts grayish brown, often tinged buff or tawny, mottled with grayish white, buff, and tawny, and streaked with blackish brown. Primary coverts brown, barred with grayish white or grayish brown. Primaries brown, boldly spotted with grayish brown along the outer webs, and faintly mottled or barred grayish brown along the inner webs. Secondaries brown, barred with grayish brown.

Lores and auriculars grayish buff, streaked with dark brown. Chin and throat pale grayish brown, thinly streaked with brown, and bordered by a blackish lateral throat stripe. Breast and flanks grayish brown, speckled with brown, thinly streaked and boldly spotted with blackish brown. Belly and undertail coverts buffy, often tinged with cinnamon or tawny, speckled and vermiculated with brown and thinly streaked with dark brown. Under-wing coverts dark brown, barred with pale buff or grayish white.

There also is a brown morph, in which the color pattern is the same as in the gray morph, but the base color of the plumage is overall browner or more rufous brown.

In the northern portion of the range, breeding is from January-July (but primarily April-July), whereas in southern Brazil breeding is reported from November and December. The single egg is white with lilac spots is laid directly in a depression in a tree limb, usually some meters above ground.

Both sexes incubate, although it is not known if there is a consistent diurnal division of labor; report that it is the male that incubates during the day. The incubation period is 30-33 days. Both sexes brood the nestling. During the first two weeks the nestling is brooded both during the day and at night; after 19 days, it is brooded only during the day, and brooding ceases when the nestling is 25 days old. Both parents feed the young through regurgitation, and the young bird begs for food by making a hoarse buzzing call. Fledging occurs at 40-47 days.

Cool Facts: Common Potoo vocalizes chiefly at night, most especially on moonlit nights. The song of Common Potoo is described by many as one of the most hauntingly beautiful sounds of the American tropics. [This song](#) consists of up to 8 melancholy and wailing or lamenting descending notes, which start loud and gradually drop in pitch in sliding steps as it fades in volume. This song is transcribed as *BU-OH*, *BU-ou*, *bu-ou*, *bu-oo*, *bu-aw....* or as *Waaoo*, *woo-woo-wooh-wuuh* . When seized, this bird produces a squeaky sound not unlike that of a crow.



Northern potoo

Nyctibius jamaicensis

Size: 15-18.1 inches (38-46 cm); **Wingspan:** 31.5-37.5 inches (80-98 cm)



Habitat: Central America; there are five subspecies distributed across Central America and the West Indies. *N. j. jamaicensis* is restricted to Jamaica while *N. j. abbotti* is found on Hispaniola with a single report from Mona Island in Puerto Rico. *N. j. lambi* is found in western Mexico extending north as far as southern Sinaloa. *N. j. mexicanus* occurs in southern and eastern Mexico north to southern parts of San Luis Potosí and Tamaulipas as well as in Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador and Honduras. *N. j. costaricensis* is the most southerly form, occurring in western Nicaragua and north-west Costa Rica.

It mainly occurs in lowland areas where it inhabits woodland and scrubland with clearings and farmland with scattered trees.

Status: Least Concern.

Global population: Unknown adult individuals with a decreasing population trend. Fairly common in Jamaica to rare and possibly local. In danger of extirpation in El Salvador; presumed presence in Nicaragua unconfirmed, and is generally regarded as rare in Costa Rica. Only recently (1988) rediscovered in Cuba after gap of more than a century, initially in province of Santa Clara, subsequently at three localities in Zapata region of Matanzas province and another in La Habana province, all of these areas in W half of country, and

thereafter also in Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo provinces, in extreme E of island. Recently also discovered on Isla Cozumel, off Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico. Apparently tolerant of human-altered habitats, where some forest remains. Major threat is continued forest destruction throughout range. Health of populations in fragmented landscapes, such as those prevailing in most of range, not known; research and census work required.

Diet: It is a nocturnal insectivore feeding on large insects such as moths or beetles. It hunts from a perch, sitting and waiting for prey then sallying out to catch it in flight.

Nesting: Sexes are similar. It has a long tail, long pointed wings, large head, very short legs and a small bill with a large gape. It is most commonly seen perched motionless in an upright position on branches or posts. The plumage is gray-brown with an intricate pattern of black, gray and cream markings. The cheeks are pale with a dark malar stripe below them. The large eye has a yellow iris which can shine red in light at night. The bird's calls are hoarse and guttural. Immatures are similar to adult, but paler and whiter and juveniles are similar to the immature, but white and spotted blackish brown along the scapulars

A single egg is laid on a broken branch with no nest material used. Both parents are involved in incubating the egg and feeding the young bird.

Cool Facts: This potoo is the northernmost representative of the potoo family and was formerly classified as a subspecies of the common potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*). It is now considered a separate species based on differences in vocalizations.

Subspecies and Distribution

- *N. j. lambi*. First reported by J. Davis in 1959 – Pacific slope of Western Mexico.
- *N. j. mexicanus*. First reported by Nelson in 1900 – East & Southern Mexico, South to El Salvador and Honduras, including Roatán Island (off Northern Honduras).
- *N. j. costaricensis*. First reported by Ridgway in 1912 – Pacific slope of North & Central Costa Rica, possibly also Western Nicaragua.
- *N. j. jamaicensis*. First reported by J. F. Gmelin in 1789 – Jamaica.
- *N. j. abbotti*. First reported by Richmond in 1917 – Hispaniola and Gonâve Islands.

White-winged potoo

Nyctibius leucopterus

Size: 9.4-11.4 inches (24-29 cm); **Wingspan:** 20-23.6 inches (50.7-60 cm)

Habitat: South America; found in the central Amazon Basin at the confluence of four rivers, from the Rio Negro on the north, to the Madeira River on the south, in eastern regions of Brazil's Amazonas state. Also in the Basin, upstream localized populations occur west of the Madeira river near Bolivia, also northwestwards into the border areas of Peru, and in northern Peru.



The main contiguous range extends north from the Amazon River proper and the confluences, into eastern Roraima state, and east of Roraima's main southerly flowing Branco River. The range extends north into central Guyana; the white-winged potoo's range in this northern strip is about 350 km wide and extends into Guyana 75 km from the Caribbean coast. The range is in the north-flowing Essequibo River drainage, and the western higher regions of the drainage; it is not in the central river drainage proper, only downstream, and Guyana's southern highlands upstream.

Status: Least Concern.

Global population: Unknown amount of adult individuals with a decreasing population trend owing to ongoing habitat destruction. This species is described as 'rare'. The Eastern Brazilian form is probably limited to remnant patches of Atlantic rainforest, where it is highly threatened or possibly even extinct. Amazonian form, only recently discovered, has been found as being common to uncommon at scattered distant localities; probably occurs throughout Amazonia in appropriate habitat, where the biggest threat comes from continued destruction of pristine forest.

Diet: It is a nocturnal insectivore (beetles, moths, cicadas, mantids, orthopterans, winged termites, and true bugs) that hunts from a perch like a shrike or flycatcher.

Nesting: Sexes apparently alike. Relatively short-tailed potoo with a dark brown head and torso, paler below. There is a conspicuous, large white patch across secondary coverts. The variability in extent of white wing patch and of reddish tones in brown may be age or sex-related.

Cool Facts: There are two forms; Amazonian and Brazilian. The Amazonian form much smaller than eastern Brazilian, but the two are virtually identical in coloration.

The Amazonian song is a haunting, melancholy, whistled song given mostly on moonlit nights. It is a gradually descending, pure-toned "feeeoooooo" lasting about 4 seconds-- sometimes rising slightly at beginning. The call is a soft, single or repeated "*bweep*".

Andean potoo

Nyctibius maculosus

Size: 13.4-15 inches (34-38 cm); **Wingspan:** 30.7 inches (78 cm)

Habitat: South America; scattered localities in Andes from Western Venezuela and the Eastern range in Colombia South through Eastern Ecuador and Eastern Peru to Northwest Bolivia.

Found in montane subtropical and temperate cloud-forests with openings, at elevations of 1800–2800 m. It perches on snags in canopy.

Status: Least Concern. **Global population:** Unknown amount of adult individuals. This species is very poorly known; it may be fairly common locally. Extensive research and survey work needed in order to establish ecological requirements, as well as population densities and trends.

Diet: It is a nocturnal insectivore (primarily flying termites, moths, and beetles) that hunts from a perch like a shrike or flycatcher.

Nesting: Sexes are similar. The variable amount of white in wing patch is never as extensive as in smaller White-winged Potoo (*N. leucopterus*).

Cool Facts: Two recent studies found that this species, the Common Potoo (*N. griseus*) and the White-winged Potoo (*N. leucopterus*) were closely related. Present species was for some time considered a race of *N. leucopterus*, which differs, however, in size, plumage, voice, and elevational distribution; may be closer to *N. griseus*.



Species Accuracy and Reference Materials

The author-artist has tried to make these species as accurate to their real life counterparts as possible. Birds of the same species vary considerably, just as all others do in nature. The birds were created using the correct field markings and the most common similarities.

With the use of one generic model to create dozens of unique bird species, some give and take is bound to occur. In addition, 3D-models have many technical challenges, which make exact representations difficult, if not impossible. It's best to think of these birds represented as resembling the particular species, and they may not, in some cases, be 100% scientifically accurate.

The model and morphs were created using Luxology's Modo. The texture maps were created in Corel's Painter. The model was rigged in Smith-Micro's Poser and adapted for use in DAZ's DAZ Studio.

Field Guide Sources:

- **"Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Volume 1: Non-passerines"** by HBW and BirdLife International
- **"Birds of South America"** by Francisco Erize, Jorge E. Rodriguez Mata and Maurice Rumboll. Princeton Illustrated Checklists.
- **"A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica"** by F. Gary Stiles and Alexander F. Skutch. Illustrated by Dana Gardner.
- **"Birds of Peru"** by Thomas S. Schulenberg, Douglas F. Stotz, Daniel E. Lane, John P. O'Neill and Theodore A. Parker III.

Internet Sources:

- **Wikipedia** (<http://www.wikipedia.com>)
- **Birdlife International** (<http://www.birdlife.org>)
- **HBW Alive** (<http://www.hbw.com>)

**Shirts, jerseys, sweatshirts,
prints, cards, posters, pillows,
coffee cups, calendars & more**

