

Australasian bittern Matuku-hūrepo

Botaurus poiciloptilus



Conservation status

Regional | Threatened: Critical
National | Threatened: Critical



Main threats

Habitat loss and degradation,
flooding, starvation, introduced
mammalian predators

A bit about me...



Length:
74 cm



Weight:
1400 g (male)
900 g (female)



Range

Range:

Highly mobile and can turn up anywhere in Otago with suitable habitat, although its distribution is patchy due to wetland reclamation. As the species is very cryptic, it is unclear whether it successfully breeds in the region. Also found across the rest of Aotearoa New Zealand and in Australia.

Key Otago sites:



- Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau / Sinclair Wetlands
- Waihora / Lake Waihora
- Te Ākau Tai Toka / The Catlins

New Zealand native

A large mottled brown bird that rarely leaves the safety of cover. Pointing its tapered bill skyward affords it impeccable camouflage. Males give a resonant 'boom' call to attract mates, particularly in springtime before dawn and after dusk.