

Least Bittern

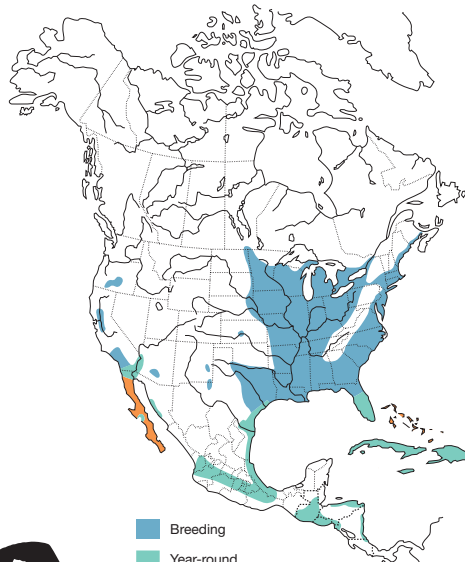
Ixobrychus exilis



Photo: H. Cruikshank



Photo: G. Lasley



PROVINCIAL STATUS

Threatened

DESCRIPTION

- robin- to crow-sized heron
- bright buffy brown
- dark wings and buffy wing patch

VOCALIZATION

- low muted : *coo-coo coo* (heard in marsh)
- also a loud, harsh contact note: *kiack-kack-kack*

PREFERRED HABITAT

- wetland

MIGRATION

Spring arrival: late May
Fall departure: late August

WINTERING GROUNDS

- Florida, Mexico, Central and South America

LOCAL POPULATION

- nests occasionally in Renfrew County
- secretive and hard to find; generally rare

THREATS

- habitat destruction and alteration

NICHE INFORMATION

- eats aquatic invertebrates, insects, amphibians, small mammals
- eaten by small hawks, falcons, fox, coyotes
- active in daytime
- lives in freshwater marshes, reedy ponds and swamps
- nests on ground in emergent aquatic vegetation or in low shrubs

WHAT WE CAN DO

- protect wetlands from draining