

Name:**Bittern***Botaurus stellatus***UK status:**

[UK BAP Priority](#). Rare breeding species. Historical decline. BoCC Red List.

London status:

Scarce wintering visitor, becoming regular at certain sites.

Protected status:

- W&CA, S.1 (1-5, Schedule 1)
 - Birds Directive, Annex I
 - Bern Convention, Appendix I
- 'Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England' (CRoW Act, 2000)

Relevant London HAPs:

Reedbeds; Ponds, lakes & reservoirs

Citation:

An enigmatic wetland bird of extensive reedbeds, the bittern's catastrophic decline as a breeding species in the UK appears to have finally been arrested through a concerted conservation campaign. Nationally, numbers of breeding pairs have risen steadily at traditional and some new sites, in response to reedbed creation and restoration. An influx of continental birds increases our wintering population, and several sites in London have become regular and significant shelters for these birds. Sites include the London Wetland Centre and Richmond Park in LB Richmond, and Bedfont Lakes Country Park in LB Hounslow.

Managing authorities; WWT, Royal Parks, CIP (Hounslow Borough Council).



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Conservation priorities:

- Reedbed maintenance and creation; water level management
- Control and management of human disturbance in key sites

References:

RSPB (2002). *The Population Status of Birds in the UK – Birds of conservation concern: 2002-2007*

RSPB et al. (2006). [The state of the UK's birds 2005](#)

Self, A. Ed. (2004). *London Bird Report for 2000*. LNHS