

# Bittern

## Species Description

**Scientific name:** *Botaurus stellaris*

A rare and shy heron, the Bittern spends almost all its time hidden away in large reedbeds, where it feeds on eels and other fish. It has wonderfully camouflaged plumage, helping it to blend into the reeds. It can also stand motionless for long periods to avoid detection.

This species is classified in the UK as Amber under the Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the Red List for Birds (2015). Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.



Photo: Amy Lewis

## Key ID features

Stocky, bulky heron  
with thick neck

Golden-brown plumage  
with black crown

Long yellow bill and  
reddish eye



Photo: Jamie Hall