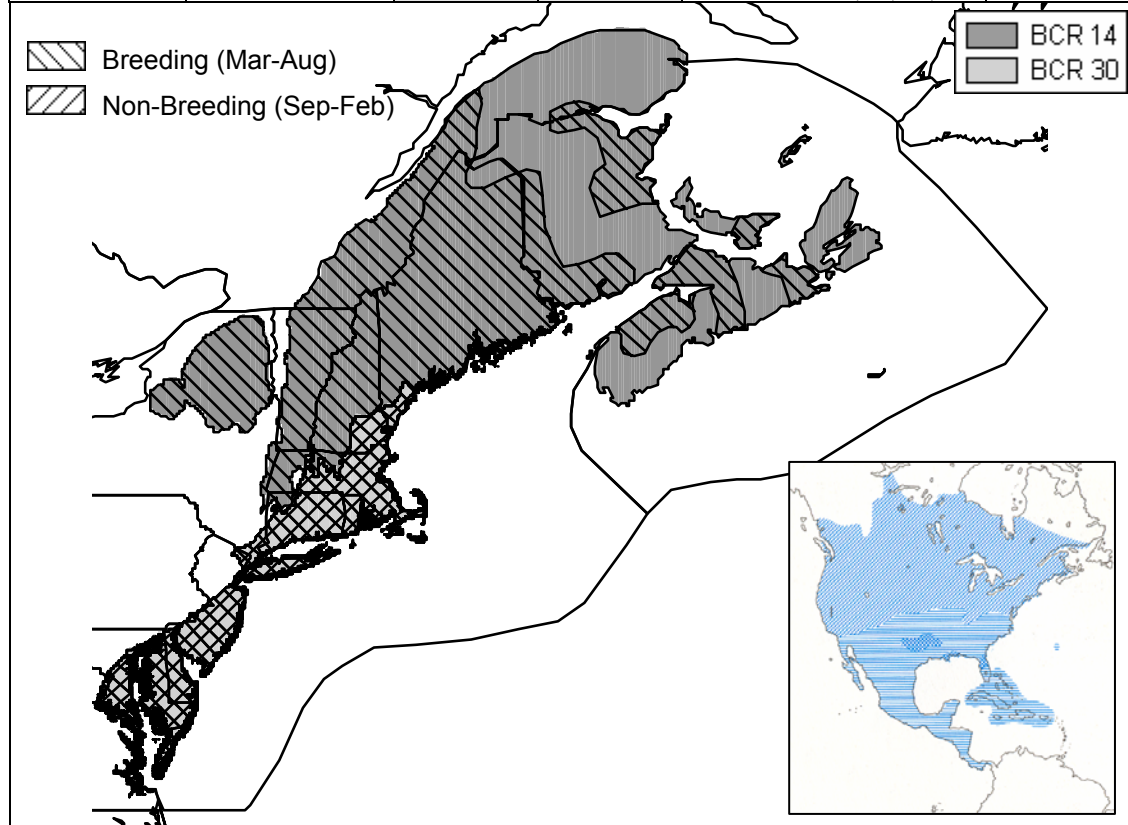


AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)

Conservation Status: Abundance (b=breeding, nb=nonbreeding, t=total individuals), Population Importance (% reference population) and Conservation Rank							
Global	North America	BCR 14	BCR 30	Mid-Atlantic	S. New England	Gulf of Maine	Maritimes
3,000,000b	3,000,000b (100% global)	? (? % NA)	? (? % NA)	? (20 % MANEM)	? (10 % MANEM)	? (50 % MANEM)	7,200b (20 % MANEM)
IUCN- Least Concern	NAWCP- High Concern	High Concern	High Concern	NJ-ES2B; DE-S1B, S2N; MD-SCS1S2B, S1N; VA- S1B,S2N MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-NJ,DE,MD,VA	NY-SCS4; CT-ES1B, S2N; RI- ES1B, S1N; MA-ES2; VT- S3B,S3N MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-NY,CT,RI,MA,VT	MA-ES2; NH-S3B; ME- S4B; NB-S4B; NS-S4B MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-MA,NH,ME	QC-S5; NB-S4B; PE- S4B; NS-S4B MANEM Focal Species



Regional Occurrence

- Distribution: breeds in region, winters in BCR 30
- Habitats used: fresh-water and brackish marshes (breeding); mainly freshwater wetlands with tall, emergent vegetation of native species (foraging); avoids even-aged stands of older, dense or dry vegetation

NAWCP BD=3; NAWCP ND=3

Regional Abundance

- 1990s: US—unknown; CAN—7,200b
- Historical population size: unknown
- Declining in Canada

NAWCP PS=2; NAWCP PT=4

Regional Threats/Limiting Factors

- Habitat loss and degradation due to drainage, filling, and conversion to agriculture (highly vulnerable to fragmentation and pesticides/contaminants)
- Non-native invasive plants
- Hunting and human disturbance
- Acid precipitation
- Parasitic nematode potentially impacts population

NAWCP TB=5; NAWCP TN=5

Conservation Needs: *Sustainability:* ≥1 egg hatched/yr in 41 of 72 nests; 40 calling males/100 ha. *Conservation Actions:* Manage for preservation of freshwater wetland habitats, reduction of invasive vegetation, protection from chemical contamination and pollution, and increased populations at protected/managed sites. *Needs:* inventory and monitor, identify important wintering populations, sites and nesting areas and their distribution. *Population Goals:* restore (increase). *Habitat Goals:* Restore/protect breeding habitats in following priority complexes: MD-Tanyard Wetlands; NJ-Quarryville Area; CT-Barkhamstead; RI-Block Is; MA-Middle Berkshire, Sudbury, Ipswich-Parker; NY-Happy Valley, Ferd/Stillwater/Moose Area, Four Bros/Ticonderoga Area, Spring Pond/Massaweppee Area; VT-W Rutland Wetlands; NH-W Central Wetlands; ME-Greater Allagash Area, Central/mid-coast Maine; NB-Minto, Moncton; NS-Bridgetown, Tatmagouche Park; PE-St Peters. Protect non-breeding habitat in BCR 30. *Conservation Projects:* 22, 24, 34, 35, 59.