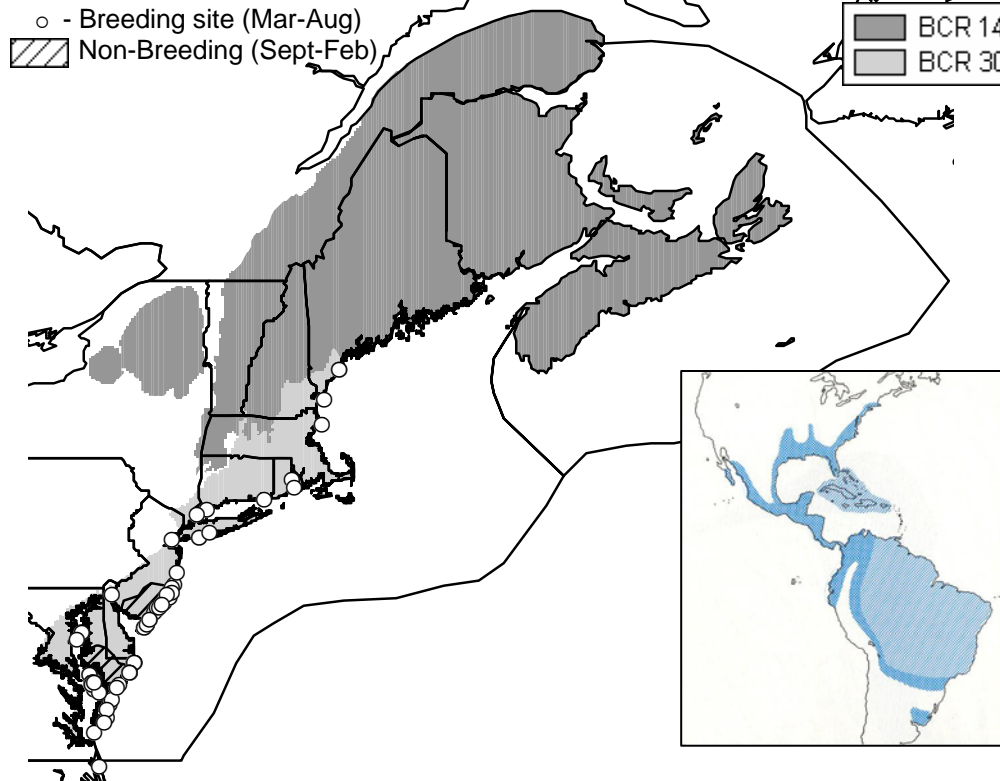


## LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*)

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
?	200,000 – 300,000b (?% global)	18b (<1% NA)	3,546b (1-2% NA)	3,518b (99% MANEM)	16b (<1% MANEM)	30b (<1% MANEM)	0b (0% MANEM)
IUCN- Least Concern	NAWCP- High Concern	High Concern	High Concern	NJ- <b>SCS2B</b> ; DE-S1B MD-S3B; VA- <b>SCS2B</b> , S3N <b>MANEM Focal Species</b> State <b>SGCN-NJ,DE,MD,VA</b>	NY-S2; CT- <b>SCS1B</b> , SZN; RI- <b>SCS1B</b> , S2N; MA-S1; VT-na State <b>SGCN-NY,CT,RI</b>	MA-S1; NH-SZN; ME- S1B; NB, NS- no info State <b>SGCN-ME</b>	QC-SN; PE- no info; NB, NS- no info



### Regional Occurrence

- Distribution: breeds in region; migrates in BCR 14; winters in BCR 30
- Habitats used: breeds in marshes, swampy woods, tidal estuaries, lagoons, mangroves and streams, and primarily in tall trees; forages mean 10 km from coastal colony in freshwater and marine-estuarine wetland habitats; shallow water; often uses densely vegetated foraging sites; choices highly variable; open pools and channel edges of *Spartina* marshes

NAWCP BD=? ; NAWCP ND=?

### Regional Abundance

- 1990s: US—3,564 (53 colonies); CAN—0b
- 1970s: US—2,326 (39 colonies)
- 53% increase in regional population

NAWCP PS=2; NAWCP PT=4

### Regional Threats/Limiting Factors

- Disturbance/development of nesting and foraging sites; alteration or erosion of shoreline habitat
- Pesticides and environmental contaminants
- Collisions with power lines, support wires, and vehicles
- Severe weather

NAWCP TB=4; NAWCP TN=4

**Conservation Needs:** *Sustainability:* 2.7 fledglings/successful nest/yr. *Conservation Actions:* Some states prohibit trespassing into heron colonies and surrounding buffer zones, esp. during breeding season. *Needs:* monitor populations, identify potential nesting areas and key foraging areas for historical and current colonies (can abandon colonies with little notice), research productivity at nesting colonies, monitor colonies for predator activity, institute predator control regimes at early signs of predator pressure. *Population Goals:* maintain (above minimum) at 3,200-4,000b. *Habitat Goals:* Restore/protect breeding habitat in following priority complexes: VA-Chincoteague Group, Pocomoke Sound; MD-Mid-Chesapeake Bay; DE-Pea Patch Group; NJ-North Channel, Atlantic Co Coast. Protect non-breeding habitat in BCR 30. *Conservation Projects:* 11, 31, 32, 34, 38, 40, 41, 45.