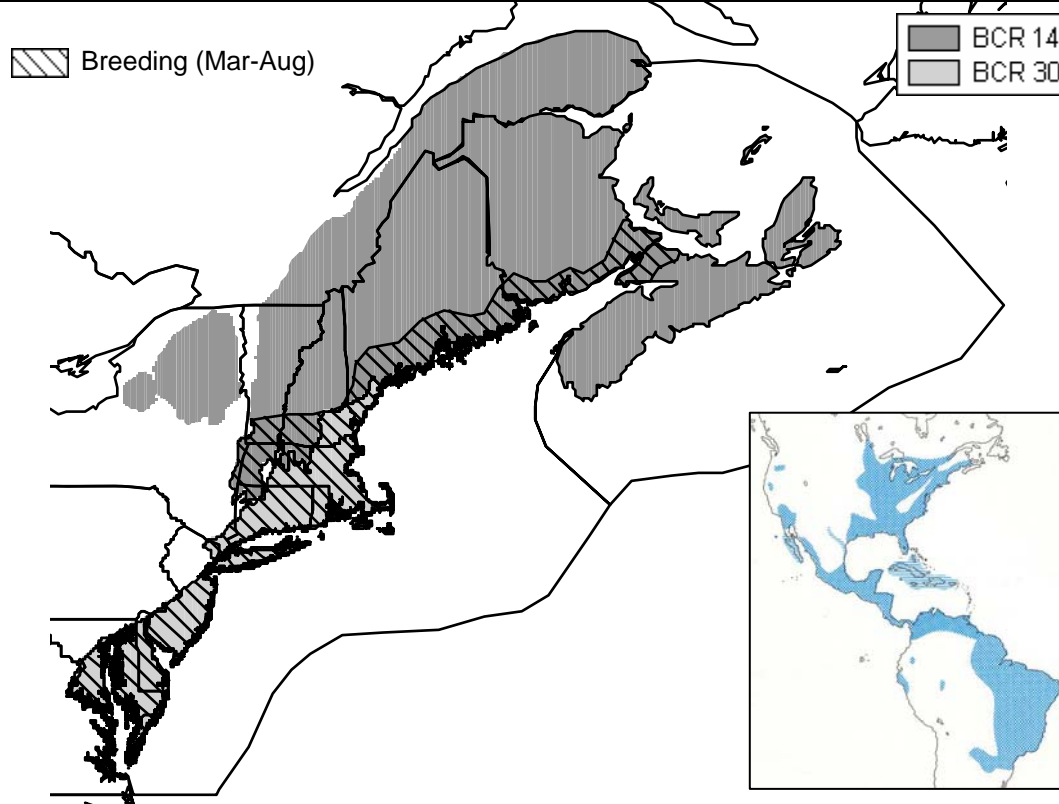


LEAST BITTERN (*Ixobrychus exilis exilis*)

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
>130,000t	128,000t (?% global)	?b (?% NA)	?b (?% NA)	?b (35% MANEM)	?b (30% MANEM)	?b (20% MANEM)	22b (15% MANEM)
IUCN- Least Concern	NAWCP- High Concern	High Concern	High Concern	NJ-SCS3B; DE-S1B; MD- SCS2S3B; VA-S2S3B, S3N MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-NJ,DE,MD,VA	NY-TS3B,S1N; CT-TS2B,SZN; RI-SCS2B, S2N; MA-ES1; VT-S2B,S2N MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-NY,CT,RI,MA,VT	MA-ES1; NH-SCS1; ME-SCS2B; NB-S1S2B; NS-S1B MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-MA,NH,ME	QC-S3; NB- S1S2B; PE- no info; NS- S1B



Regional Occurrence

- Distribution: breeds in region
- Habitats used: fresh-water marshes with tall vegetation, brackish marshes and mangrove swamps (breeding); builds platforms of bent reeds; in daytime, frequents tall, dense stands of emergent plants along deep, open waters (foraging); prefers hemi-marsh, equal parts emergent vegetation and open water; found at sites with high marshbird diversity

NAWCP BD=3; NAWCP ND=4

Regional Abundance

- 1990s: US—unknown; CAN—22b
- Historical population size: unknown
- % change in regional population: unknown

NAWCP PS=2; NAWCP PT=4

Regional Threats/Limiting Factors

- Destruction of wetland habitat is greatest threat
- Siltation from erosion of farmlands and run-off containing insecticides may degrade nesting sites and reduce food supply
- Invasive vegetation
- Parasites
- Collision with vehicles, barbed-wire fences, transmission wires

NAWCP TB=4; NAWCP TN=4

Conservation Needs: *Sustainability:* 3.0 average young hatched/nest/yr; 0.5 calling birds/ha (NY); 1-15 nests/ha. *Conservation Actions:* Preservation and improvement of wetland habitats are the most urgent management needs, as well as protection from chemical contamination, siltation, eutrophication, and other forms of pollution. No net loss of wetland habitats, especially those with equal proportions emergent vegetation and water. *Needs:* ID migration routes, stopover sites, important wintering areas, breeding/wintering habitat use and needs; verify survey technique accuracy; monitor. *Population Goals:* monitor. *Habitat Goals:* Restore/protect breeding habitat in following priority complexes: MD-Tanyard Wetlands, Blackwater-Fishing Bay; DE-Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, Prime Hook NWR; NJ-Quarryville Area; NY-Westchester Coast; CT-Western State, Bantam; RI-Sakonnet River, Ninigret & Quonochontaug Ponds, Blackstone River; MA-Ipswich-Parker; VT-W Rutland Wetlands; NH-Great Bay Wetlands; ME-Central/mid-coast Maine; NB-St John Area. *Conservation Projects:* 22, 24, 34, 35, 59.