

 **Eurasian Bittern**

 **Butor étoilé**



Botaurus stellaris

The bittern is a medium-sized, stocky heron. The plumage is golden brown, spotted and striped with black. Its head is topped by a black cap. The beak is framed by two black whiskers. The beak and legs are greenish. L. 69-81 cm ; E. 100-130 cm.

Breeding and non-breeding adult: the plumage is similar.

Juveniles: at birth, the bill is a "horn" colour which quickly becomes blue-green. The legs are blue-green. The colour is reddish-brown above, slightly lighter below. The iris is red.

Voice: typical bellowing sound that is bi-syllabic at close range, "uhh-HOUMP", can be heard 5 km away. When travelling at night (e.g. on migration), the adult emits a "kaouh" in flight, similar to the call of a Yellow-legged Gull.

Eggs: brown. Usually 4 to 6 eggs are laid.

Nests: The nest is a platform built mainly from reeds.

Habitat: nests in reed beds.

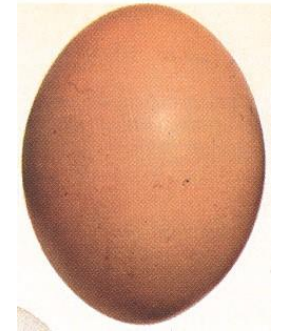
Similar species: Purple Heron breeds in reed beds and colonies. The nest is larger. The young in the nest have a longer yellow bill and green legs.

Breeding adult



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Egg



First week chick



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