

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (Site 5)



Black Bittern

(Ixobrychus flavicollis)



Female

Local Status – Very Rare

Status relates only to the relative abundance of species
on the Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk

(Photography by Peter Boyd) (Birds Queensland)

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As with other bitterns, the Black Bittern is a secretive bird, roosting in a tree or amongst reeds during the day, and assuming a stick-like posture when disturbed. Its' activities tend to be more diurnal than other bitterns.

Bird Size - 54 - 66cm

Food - Fish, frogs, & aquatic insects.

Nest style - A loose platform with a shallow depression in the centre.

Material used - Dry sticks and twigs.

Nest Site - Usually in a dense foliated tree overhanging water or mangroves.

Breeding Season & Details - September to January, with three to five eggs laid once a year.

Habits - Singly or in pairs, frequenting well vegetated margins of streams, lakes, swamps, and mangrove flats. When disturbed flies into trees, creeps along branches, then freezes pointing its' bill skywards. Tends to feed more openly than other bitterns.