

**36 Little Bittern**

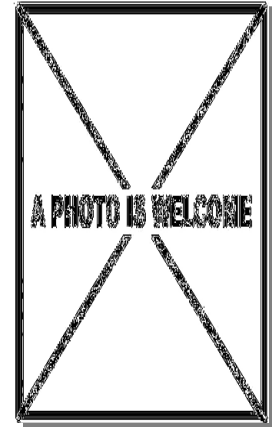
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Little Bittern. Male. Adult (30-VI).



Little Bittern. Sexing. Adult. Pattern of upperpart: left male; right female.



**LITTLE BITTERN** (*Ixobrychus minutus*)

**IDENTIFICATION**

33-38 cm. **Adult male** with black upperparts, wing and tail; buff neck and underparts; wing with a white patch. **Adult female** similar to **male**, but no so dark. **Juveniles** chestnut and streaked.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**

This species is unmistakable.

**SEXING**

In **adults, male** with crown, upperparts and tail black with green gloss; with or grey buff greater coverts. **Female** with brown upperparts, sometimes tinged rufous, with buff margins; buff greater coverts. In **2nd year** birds, **male** similar to **adult male** but with less grey on sides of head and neck, more streaked underparts and with brownish inner secondaries.



Little Bittern. Sexing. Adult. Pattern of greater coverts: left male; right female.

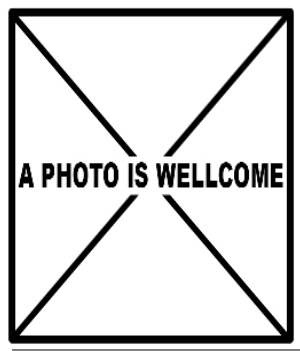
**AGEING**

3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** similar to **females**, but feathers of crown have broader and paler brown edges; upperparts dark brown, with broad buff margins; dark brown wing coverts, with broad buff margins.

**2nd year** with inner brown secondaries brown, not black; some birds can retain juvenile wing coverts, mainly the outer greater coverts.

**Adult** with black inner secondaries, all with similar pattern; greater coverts white or grey-buff in **male**, uniform buff in **female**.



Little Bittern. Sexing. Adult. Pattern of crown: left male; right female.

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Little Bittern. Ageing. Pattern of crown: left adult female; right juvenile.

**MOULT**

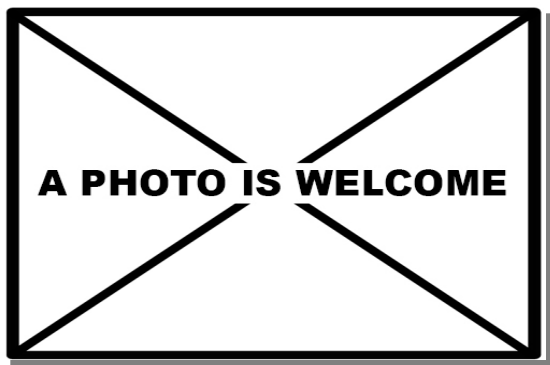
Complete **postbreeding** moult starting in July, suspended just before the migration and finished in winter quarters. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers.

**PHENOLOGY**

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

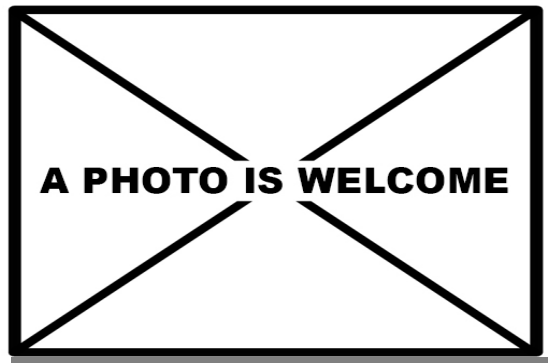
**STATUS IN ARAGON**

Summer visitor, breeding in a few number of lagoons in the Ebro basin.



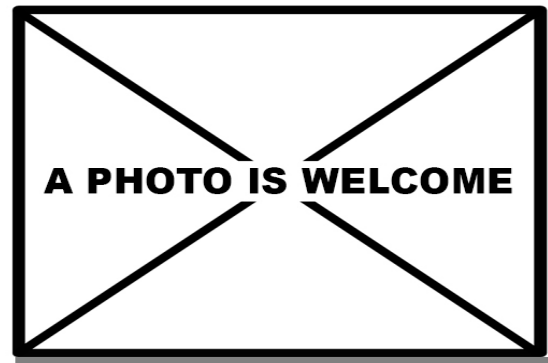
Little Bittern. Female. Adult ().

Little Bittern. Ageing. Pattern of upperpart: left adult female; right juvenile.



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Little Bittern. Ageing. Pattern of greater coverts: left adult female; right juvenile.



Little Bittern. 2nd year. Female ().

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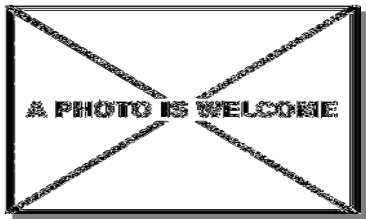
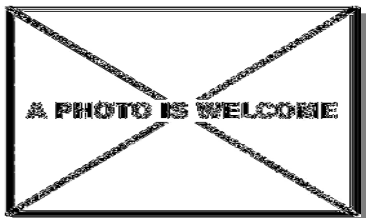
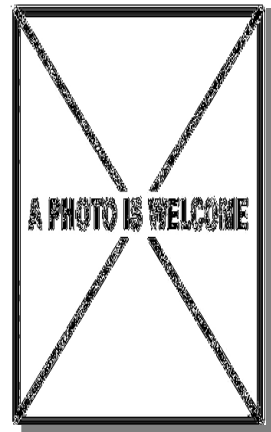
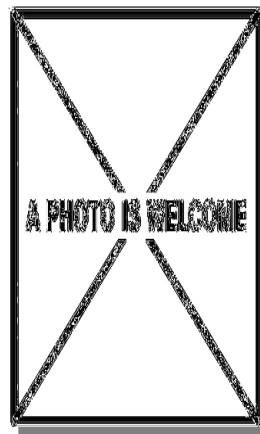
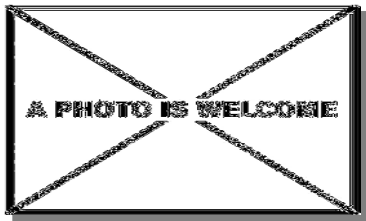
Little Bittern. Juvenile (08-IX).



Little Bittern. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (30-VI); right female ().



Little Bittern. Adult. Pattern of head and neck: top male (30-VI); bottom female ().



Little Bittern. Pattern of head and neck: top 2nd year male (); middle 2nd year female (); bottom juvenile (08-IX).



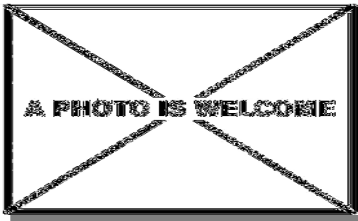
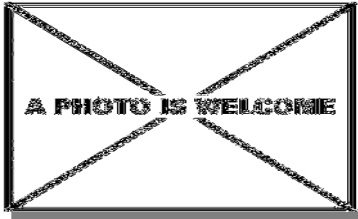
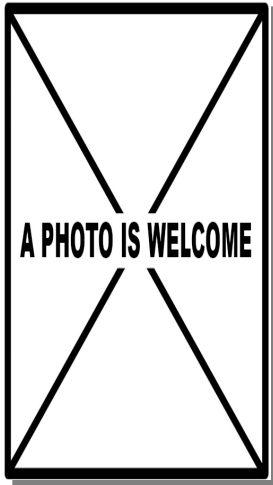
Little Bittern. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (08-IX).



Little Bittern. Adult. Nape pattern: left male (30-VI); right female ().

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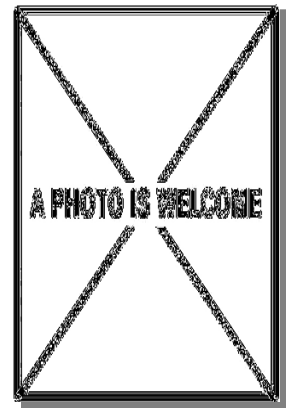
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Little Bittern. Breast pattern: top 2nd year male (); middle 2nd year female (); bottom juvenile (08-IX).

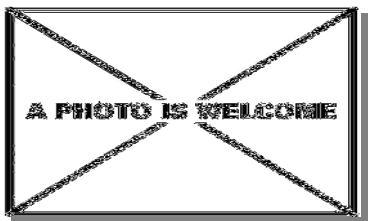


Little Bittern. Nape pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (08-IX).



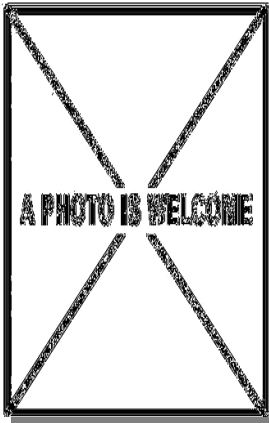
Little Bittern. Adult. Breast pattern: top male (30-VI); bottom female ().

Little Bittern. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (30-VI); right female ().



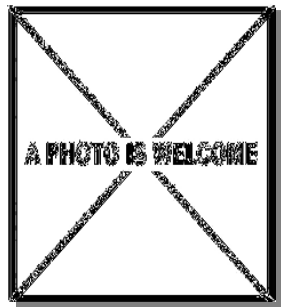
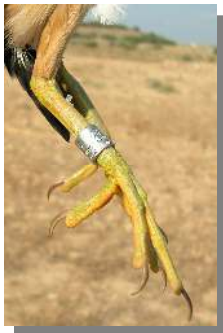
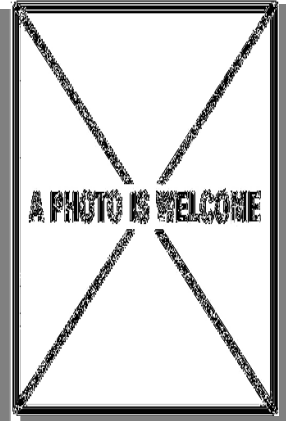
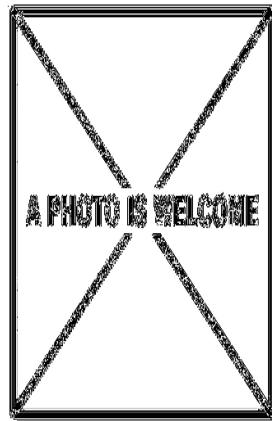
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Little Bittern. Upperpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (08-IX).

Little Bittern. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (30-VI); right female ().



Little Bittern. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (08-IX).



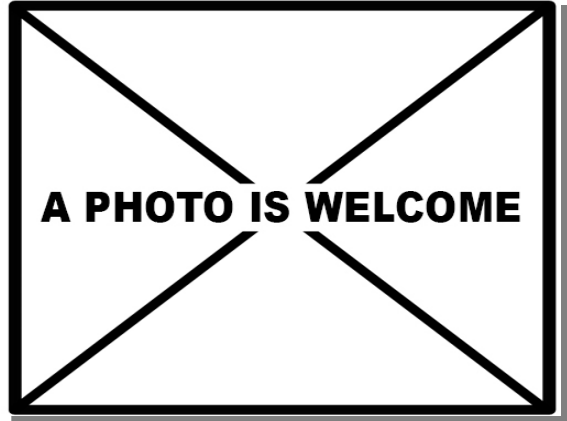
Little Bittern. Legs pattern: top left male (30-VI); middle female (); bottom juvenile (08-IX).

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Little Bittern. Adult. Male: pattern of wing coverts (30-VI).



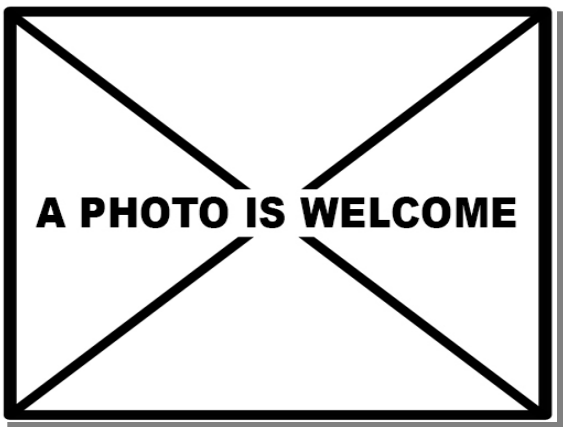
Little Bittern. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing coverts ().



Little Bittern. Adult. Female: pattern of wing coverts (15-X).



Little Bittern. Juvenile: pattern of wing coverts (08-IX).



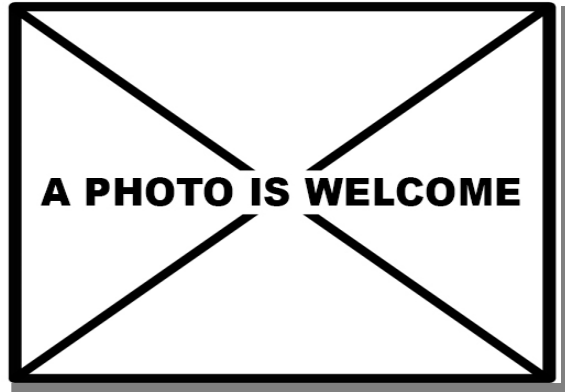
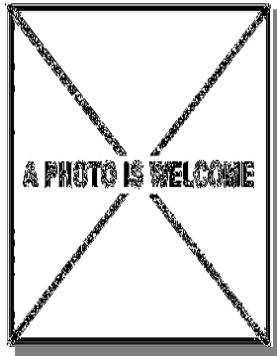
Little Bittern. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing coverts ().



Little Bittern. Adult. Pattern of tertials and scapulars: left male (30-VI); right female ().

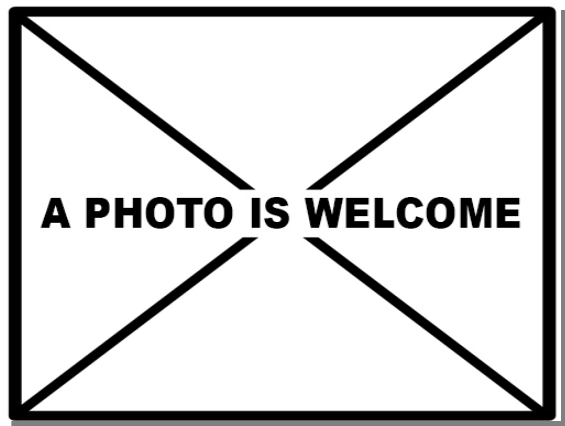
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Little Bittern. Pattern of tertials and scapulars: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile (08-IX).

Little Bittern. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries



Little Bittern. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries ().

Little Bittern. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (30-VI).



Little Bittern. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (08-IX).



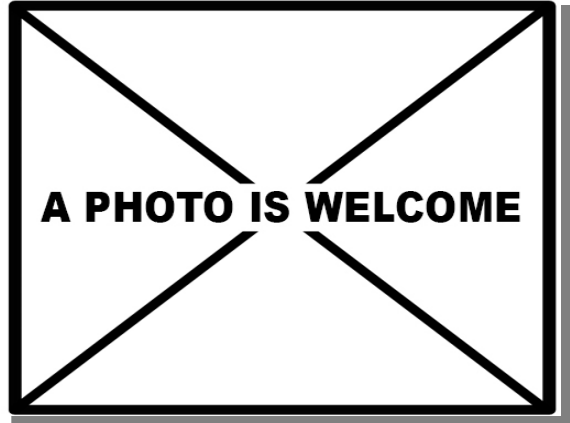
Little Bittern. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (15-X).

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Little Bittern. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (30-VI).



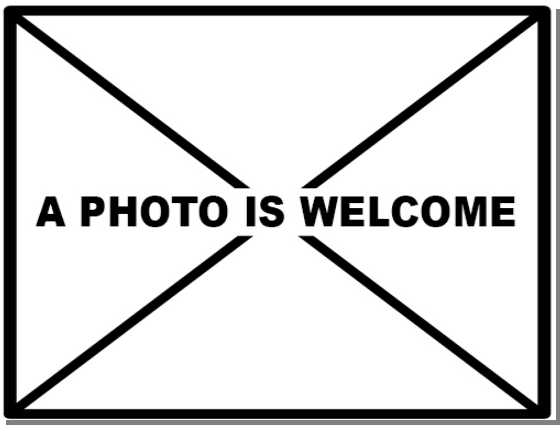
Little Bittern. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries ().



Little Bittern. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (15-X).



Little Bittern. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (08-IX).



Little Bittern. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries ().



Little Bittern. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (30-VI).



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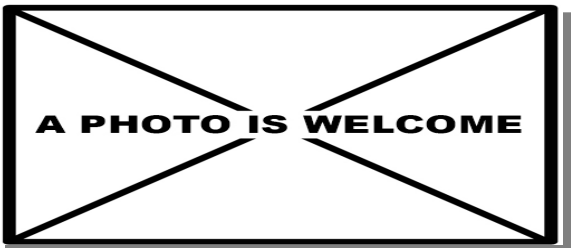


Little Bittern. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (15-X).

Little Bittern. Juvenile: pattern of wing (08-IX).



Little Bittern. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing ().



Little Bittern. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing ().