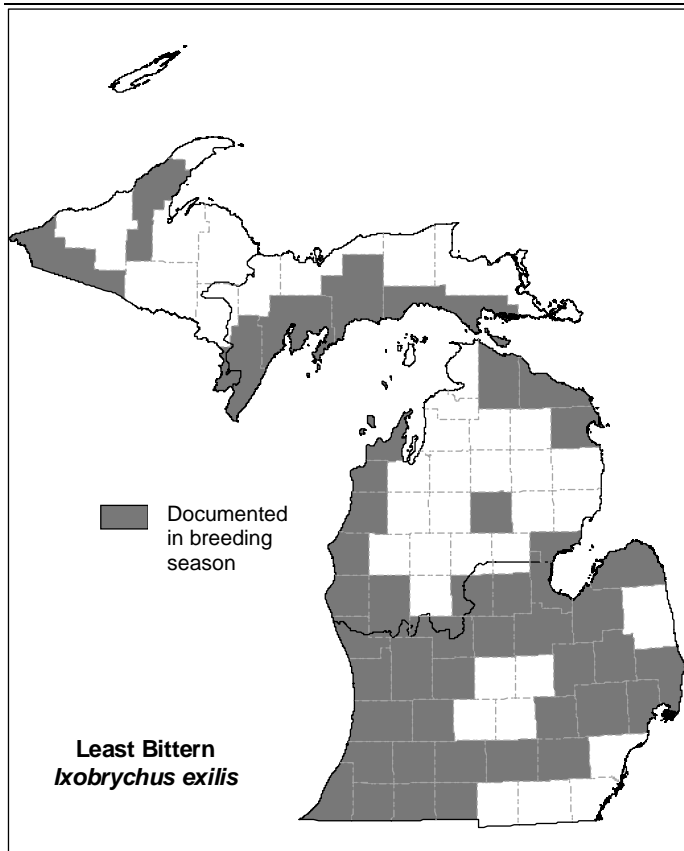


# BIRDS



## Least Bittern

(*Ixobrychus exilis*)

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE:** Currently listed as threatened in Michigan, the Least Bittern was once common statewide. It is currently uncommon and scattered across the Lower Peninsula and rare in the Upper Peninsula.

**ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES:** lowland shrub; ephemeral wetland; pond; inland lake; coastal emergent wetland

**ASSOCIATED THREATS:** conversion to agriculture lands; disease, pathogens, & parasites; dredging & channelization; altered hydrologic regimes; industrial/residential/recreational development; invasive plants & animals; lack of scientific knowledge; other biological interactions (predation by crows, mammals, snakes, snapping turtles, and bullfrogs); pesticides & herbicides; scientific research; social attitudes; urban, municipal, and industrial pollution; wetland modifications

**COMMENTS:** Threats to Least Bittern and their relative severity are poorly documented.