PANUI

THE GREAT MATUKU MUSTER 2026

Help make bittern count!

LOVE BITTERN PROJECT

Join the biggest citizen science project helping bittern conservation in New Zealand!

Bittern are a highly mobile and reclusive species. During the spring most adult males settle down into more discrete territories and BOOM! The Great Matuku-hūrepo Muster' synchronises counts of male bittern booming across the country.

By recording bittern you give them a voice.

Matuku-hūrepo, our native bittern are just one step from extinction. With fewer than 1000 adult birds remaining the numbers matter. The muster gives us a more accurate population estimate. It also puts them on the map so we can help you protect bittern and their wetland homes from land use changes.

Join us!

To join us you will need to be able to record male bittern booming for 1-3 consecutive days over two months at a wetland near you, for 60-90mins after your local sunset.

The monitoring method we use follows the DOC protocol for 'Active listening or triangulation'.

Set your dates - and postponement dates

for 1-3 consecutive days, for 1-3 months between:

- September -Friday 18th to Sunday 27th
- October -Friday 23rd to Sunday 1st Nov
- November -Friday 20th to Sunday 29th

To avoid double counting -coordinate your teams listening locations & synchronise your dates with your wider district or region.

We recommend targeting the first weekend and using the last weekend or weekdays for your postonement dates.

For more information

Visit lovebittern.com -sign up, learn how to take part and send your results in.

What we have achieved so far in 2024 |2025-

- 223 | 175 individual male bittern booming
- 462 | 289 locations monitored
- 512 | 393 people listened
- Over 1000 people registered to help

Why we are connecting people to bittern and wetlands.

"No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they haven't experienced."

- Sir David Attenborough

How you can help

- listen at a wetland near you.
- let us know if youve got a wetland you'd like help with
- coordinate a team of people in your area.
- sponsor monitoring equipment or costs to help in remote locations.

Need help? Contact Wendy 022 526 1972 or email lovebittern@gmail.com

www.lovebittern.com