

Creating Bittern Friendly PONDS & POOLS

PLEASE!



Provide sunny loafing spots

- with a good view of the sky to be able to escape from aerial predators
- create overhangs for fish

**IDENTIFY YOUR
TARGET!**

Bittern in flight

Wingspan ~100cm



Photo credit:
Peter Lange and
sons

Limit disturbance in sensitive areas (dam wall erosion, large areas of reeds/rushes)

- provide restricted access for stock, people
- trap/stop predators!

One or two strategically placed trees

- cover and shade for ducklings and fish
- detritus for invertebrates

Connected to planted waterways and wetlands that stay WET!... in and out...

- providing birds and fish safe passage and breeding habitat.

Maintained edges of reed beds to keep access open for

- fish and birds
- game retrieval

Planted edges in low stature plants eg. flax, carex and rushes

- places to nest and hide
- habitat for fish & insects
- helps filter the water

Ramped access into water

- reduce steep drop ins
- safer for stock and people
- gives a graduating range of depths for foraging

Why Bittern? Bittern are one step from extinction, their demise is linked to the loss of more than 90% of our wetlands in NZ. When we restore our wetlands around our ponds with Bittern in mind we are restoring the entire wetland eco-system which benefits other species, helps protect us from flooding and helps keep our water clean & clear - or in our terms -drinkable, swimmable and fishable!

Game on!

This guide has been written with ducks and other gamebirds in mind too!

Ducks require a lot of the same features as Bittern do - add an oak tree for acorns near the drier perimeter fence and build yourself a gamebird eutopia!

LOVE BITTERN
PROJECT

