

# Sunbittern

*Eurypyga helias*



**Range:** Mexico to Brazil

**Size:** ♂: 61-74cm (24-30in)

♀: 61-74cm (24-30in)

**Weight:** ♂: 180-220g (6.4-7.8 oz)

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**Wing:** ♂: 61cm (24 in)

♀: 61 cm (24 in)

**Habitat:** humid forest near streams

**Incubation:** 27 days

**Eggs:** 2-3

**Fledge:** 8-9 weeks

**Sexual maturity:** 12-24 months

**Nest:** Open nest in trees

**Social:** solitary

**Breeding:** monogamous

**Movement:** generally sedentary

**Food:** crustaceans, insects and fish

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**Subspecies:** 3

**Longevity:** captive: 24 yrs Wild: n/a

**Order:** Gruiformes **Family:** Eurypygidae

A bittern shaped bird the Sunbittern gets both its common and scientific names from its beautiful cryptic coloration on its back and wings. This coloration not only provides camouflage while foraging on the forest floor but also provides a stunning display during courtship. In addition when startled the sunbittern will spread its wings to intimidate potential predators. The frontal display performed on the ground is used only in defense. While the courtship display is given

in flight. The birds have a very distinctive whistle.