

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)  
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Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)  
Australian little bittern: pp 98-99.

**Australian Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus dubius* Mathews 1912, Vagrant (1)  
5/2/1987 Westport, Westland

An exhausted bird walking past a Westport supermarket was caught by a council worker, and then taken into care (O'Donnell & Dilks 1988). It was handed to the R.S.P.C.A. and fed on tadpoles, bullies, freshwater invertebrates and oxheart. Local Wildlife Officers were told about it a week later, and they informed Colin O'Donnell and Peter Dilks. It was described, measured and photographed. After rehabilitation the bird was released into the nearby Birchfield swamp, north of Westport, and was never seen again.