



COSEWIC
Committee on the Status of
Endangered Wildlife in Canada

COSEPAC
Comité sur la situation des
espèces en péril au Canada

6 April 2021

Mr. Campbell Stuart
Colby Monet, L.L.P.
2075, boulevard Robert-Bourassa
Bureau 600
Montréal, Québec H3A 2L1

**Re: Amendment of the Recovery Strategy and Actions Plans for the Least Bittern
(*Ixobrychus exilis*)**

Dear Mr. Stuart,

We are pleased to provide an update as per your request in your letter dated February 12, 2021, with respect to the status assessment of Least Bittern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

COSEWIC did not receive any suitable bids to prepare a status report update for Least Bittern as a result of the 2019 COSEWIC Call for Bids process. This species was again advertised on the January 2021 Call for Bids, and that process has closed. If a suitable bidder is found, work on preparing the status report could begin as early as summer. However, even if that is the case, we anticipate that it will be April 2023 at the earliest, when COSEWIC will meet to reassess the status of Least Bittern, based on information provided in the update report. Once reassessed, COSEWIC's recommendation on status will be formally submitted to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada and other federal/provincial/territorial wildlife ministers. The recommendation will then be considered by the Government of Canada.

COSEWIC is not involved in any aspect of Recovery Strategies, designation of Critical Habitat, or Action Plans. For questions related to those aspects of the federal Species at Risk process, please contact Environment and Climate Change Canada (ec.planificationduretablissement-recoveryplanning.ec@canada.ca).

Yours sincerely,

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Chair, COSEWIC
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Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

Cc: Michaël Tremblay, Lawyer, Colby Monet
Dr. Richard Elliot, Co-chair, Birds Specialist Subcommittee
Dr. Marcel Gahbauer, Co-chair, Birds Specialist Subcommittee
Isabelle Gauthier, Biologiste, Coordonnatrice provinciale des espèces fauniques
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