

The Mangrove Bittern is a very common bird on the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay. We located a half-dozen nests in half an hour; the nests are built in the mangroves—just a platform of sticks on the fork of a tree, from 10 to 15 feet off the ground. I often wonder how the young birds manage to adjust themselves to such an uncomfortable home. The adult birds stand at the side of the little pools left by the tide, head bunched back into shoulders, body crouched low on legs, for an hour at a stretch, immovable. One might be mistaken for a stone, a rusty tin, or a piece of stick—until suddenly the head shoots out from the shoulders on a long, heron-like neck. Occasionally the birds get high and dive (one dived for a whole morning from the bumpkin of the boat); but they mostly content themselves with the wee fish in the pools.—LILA M. MAYO, R.A.O.C., South Brisbane.