

The Bittern

Crossword puzzles

Large and cryptic

The Bittern

I hope you enjoy attempting my *Bittern* crossword puzzles. I started creating them in 2022, as an alternative to my 15 x 15 sized *Atrichornis* puzzles that appear in each issue of Australian Birdlife. The larger (23 x 23) format of the Bitterns allows me to include more birds in the puzzle. A considerable proportion of bird names are longer than 15 letters and can't be used in the standard sized crossword.

Just like the namesake Australasian Bittern, these puzzles are large and cryptic. But if you know your world birds, you'll have a head start. And if you know all the ins and outs of solving cryptic crossword clues, you will hardly need to know any bird names – the clues will tell you.

Best of luck!

© Alan Stuart, Barrenjoey Rd New South Wales

The Bittern Puzzle #01

ACROSS

- 1 Eagle – in Tasmania we'd start getting identification enquiries (6)
- 5 Without delay, God re-constructed temples (7)
- 9 US bird embroiled in bonk boilover (8)
- 13 Seabird knocked back pretty morsel with greed (4-6,5-6)
- 14 I led far out with top birder to find a plain Asian passerine (8)
- 15 Aerial songster mucking around (7)
- 16 Dunlin moves north to first breed in Ireland (6)
- 17 Flying – want in lens for many shots here (4,6)
- 20 Rogering mostly randy wandering musician (5,7)
- 23 A blockbuster band arising initially from Sweden (4)
- 24 A way to measure a large pigeon (8)
- 26 It's my Emu, cooked to taste best (8)
- 29 Jester's ally went around to pick up North American bird (8,3)
- 30 Cheap trick on European shorelines? (6,4)
- 32 The French cats have Coot rattled: things are left hanging here (4,6)
- 34 Renew barrel smashed after glorious start, discover Caucasian passerine (5,7)
- 36 Some eastern Albatross without true ribs (8)
- 38 Land a bit off an American pigeon (4-4)
- 39 Natural product has some allure as fertilizer (4)
- 41 Australian duck that uncle set out to find (8,4)
- 43 No pelagic sea-birding for her because of silly lab blunder (10)
- 44 Opening for first couples of clumsy oasis camels (6)
- 46 General chaos for an insect-eater (7)
- 48 Unusual timeline for a mineral to form (8)
- 50 Sell Polly lion below bid, exchange it for a waterbird (6-6,9)
- 51 Where weary hen might crash! (8)
- 52 Any cuts affected Mediterranean archipelago? (8)
- 53 Groans about one's essential parts (6)

DOWN

- 2 Raptor primarily eating animals, geckos, lizards? Exactly! (5)
- 3 Small insectivore could become a giant flyer! (4,7)
- 4 Birds outwardly ill betide moving water (3,5)
- 5 Walked determinedly, seeing parrots and cockatoos every day for starters (5)
- 6 Stabbing fatigues sesqui-centenarian somewhat (7)
- 7 In Tasmania, is so drunk by fermentation (5,6)
- 8 Has no strange tribesman arrived? (8)
- 9 Ineptly link my pub crawl (9)
- 10 Mate – strange eBirder without first interstate records (5)
- 11 There's burning talk about this American sparrow (4,7)
- 12 All nine letters are used for an anti-narcotic (7)
- 18 Large seabird sailors bat away after I leave (9)
- 19 Name of avenging goddess seems in doubt (7)
- 21 Eurasian passerine gets cold with start of rather stormy conditions (9)
- 22 Fruity Malayan native, unusually born at a Malayan capital (8)
- 25 Migrating Teal can be made legal (9)
- 27 There's a passerine in every isle (9)
- 28 Manchester at night is cosy (3,5)
- 31 Raise in an environment I once visited (7)
- 33 Makes a wowser tell name of American insectivore (4,7)
- 34 A Rifleman flock? With legs nursing wound (11)
- 35 Sad decoration for an IID relative (4,7)
- 37 Contestable to disturb Teal with big unbounded bill (9)
- 40 Go film an exotic waterbird (8)
- 42 Carefree type of Kingfisher (7)
- 43 Lining of Kevlar is saving girl (7)
- 45 Weka, stirred up about nothing, was disturbed (5)
- 47 One hundred Teal migrating with flair (5)
- 48 Arctic gull associated with Mammoths? (5)
- 49 Claw somewhat vital on raptors (5)

The Bittern Puzzle #01

1	2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		
	13																						
14									15								16						
17	18						19				20		21				22						
23						24			25							26						27	
					28																		
29																							
32			33									34								35			
36							37		38											39			
41	42													43									
44					45		46		47							48						49	
	50																						
51									52								53						

The Bittern Puzzle #02

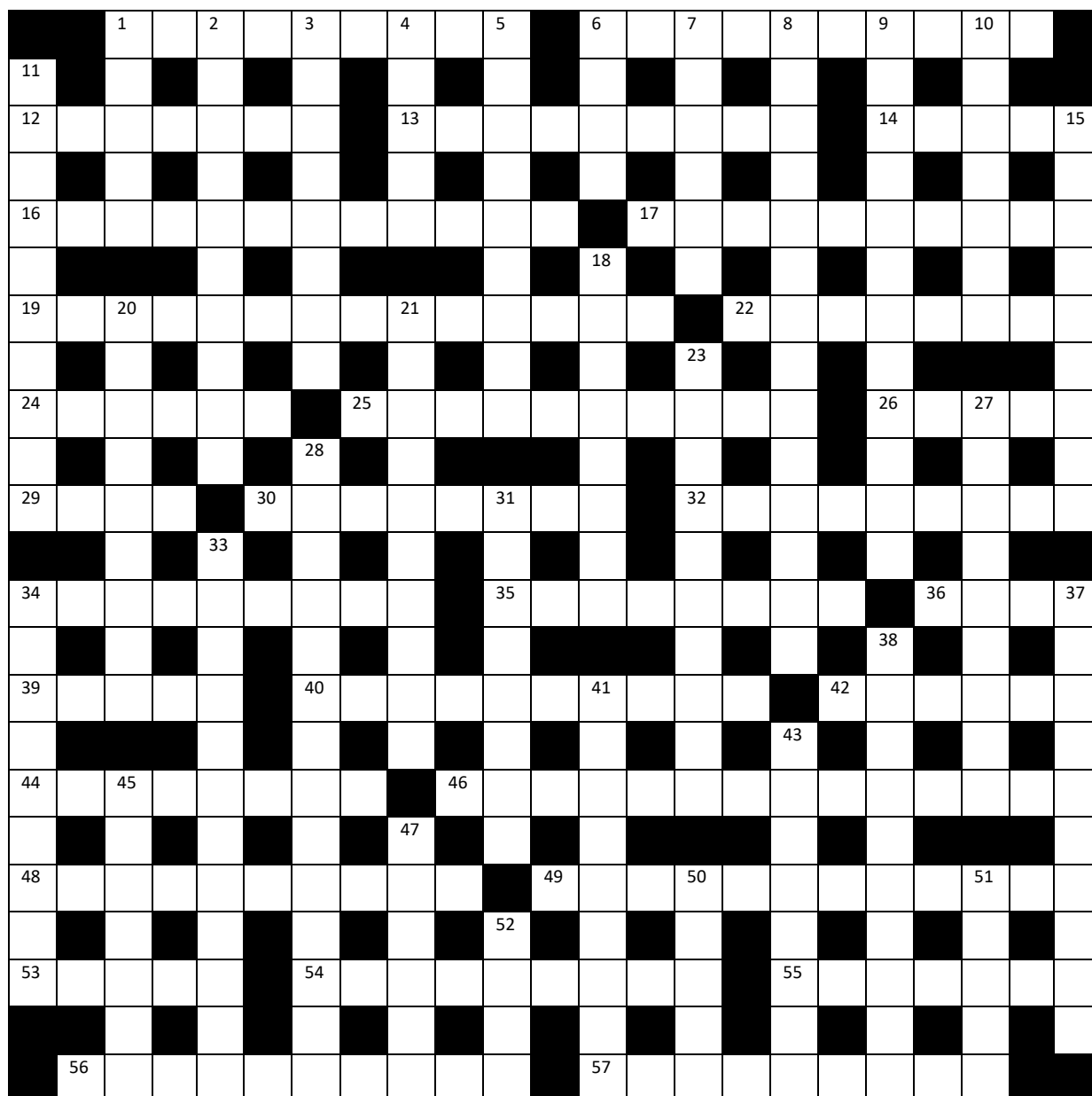
ACROSS

- 1 Bad writer scrawled its description (9)
- 6 Directors resign – left high and dry in the swamp (10)
- 12 Unfortunately I retain my sluggish condition (7)
- 13 Space a bit messy for African passerine? (4,5)
- 14 Pronoun heard in a certain position (5)
- 16 At sea – land and rush this bird (6,6)
- 17 Fast flyer can go flying (4,6)
- 19 Hype with unknown author allowed to find aerial insectivore (6,8)
- 22 Tempers flare after pressure – jumps right in (3-5)
- 24 Regretting some untrue fulsome praise (6)
- 25 Like former PM using fond term for American waterfowl? (5,5)
- 26 Infectious situation after last birdwatcher leaves a crow (5)
- 29 Nesting material sourced through the internet (4)
- 30 Rich and into playing with birds (8)
- 32 I'd left widow a reason for stunning bird (3,6)
- 34 Mouthpiece for a thrush (9)
- 35 Roar, and deny arrangement is loosely arranged – for example, non-taxonomic (3,5)
- 36 A large predator soaring here initially (4)
- 39 Users playing tricks (5)
- 40 Discipline summed up (10)
- 42 A nose's suffering – it might be Spring (6)
- 44 Petty merchant, he struck wildly (8)
- 46 Seabird allowed into SCG Members area? (8,6)
- 48 Mass destruction – but with cosy appeal, strangely enough (10)
- 49 Unruly slob hurling ashtray at seabird (3,9)
- 53 Like birdwatchers, with leaders staying on board eyeing Rockhoppers (5)
- 54 Northern songbird saw small bird gulping each snack furiously (4,5)
- 55 Give permission to deal with silence (7)
- 56 Scores level finally – disturbing watch (and more, oddly) (5,5)
- 57 These can cause a distress (9)

DOWN

- 1 Cycle where hylacolas eat every larvae at first (5)
- 2 A tutor is an unusual old reptile (10)
- 3 Try out big match by the way (4,4)
- 4 Suffer as some robin, curlew or honeyeater might (5)
- 5 Placed egg in nest which indeed, somehow, I spot (9)
- 6 Two graduates meeting for cake ... (4)
- 7 ... since seabird is behind the boat (6)
- 8 Finally convinced, Sky runs wagers for broadcasting inland bird (5,9)
- 9 A cat threatens endlessly to disturb an African passerine (8,4)
- 10 It's crippling how it's covering the joint (7)
- 11 Sulawesi endemic somehow wiping crop production (6,4)
- 15 Insider with outside running has front row seat (9)
- 18 Deny Dick an opportunity to find African passerine (8)
- 20 Birds primarily in droves, flying – they have characteristic nests (9)
- 21 Ugandan passerine with unusual air (but is it?) (5,5)
- 23 Umberto leads a battler to a determined Greenie (10)
- 27 Role of agitator – stir alive, stir well (9)
- 28 Catchment topography miscommunicated in tardy message (8,6)
- 31 Where many first flights begin (8)
- 33 Box and argue after audience identifies a universal intruder (5,7)
- 34 Rhea had case of doubts about ducks (9)
- 37 Spectacular outcome – before girls chanted (10)
- 38 Part of its precept: a clean litter-free environment (10)
- 41 Drawn out, which seems a bit fishy (3-6)
- 43 Blue and black are for eccentrics (8)
- 45 Tool certain birds are forbidden to use (7)
- 47 Adjusted stance, moving higher (6)
- 50 Singers a bit special to songbirds (5)
- 51 A bird of Horn Island (5)
- 51 A fish Ospreys prefer above Hoki at first (4)

The Bittern Puzzle #02



The Bittern Puzzle #03

Large and cryptic

ACROSS

- 1 Old King George, a fool starts with rather enormous Nikon to find a desert dweller (4,9)
- 8 Medico surgery in drunken spree went well (9)
- 13 Some moron or oaf in a US university town (5)
- 14 Merge Tit genera randomly (9)
- 15 Gears used when feathering? (7)
- 16 Just the thing for one's clippings (4,8)
- 17 It's a teeny hero when migrating (10)
- 18 Pairs of Trogons again! Nice, but without wings it's not (6)
- 19 Paraná's pride, as your Gatsby is to listeners (5,3)
- 21 NZ killers start serious terrorising of all Shovelers, Tuis, Silvereyes (6)
- 24 Leaves arrangement, having dined after visit to pub (10)
- 26 Snowy Mountains in three other continents (near-as, with varied letters) (6,6)
- 29 Sometimes a garden feature – initially birds appreciate this hospitality (4)
- 30 Antisocial rampaging schoolie gang (not SCEG) (8)
- 31 It's better, or is pure rubbish (8)
- 34 It's a duck – had heard differently (8)
- 35 Brief business with parliamentarian allowed judge finally to finish (8)
- 36 Place birds moult into new tails (4)
- 39 A parrot – nomadic, like Stork and Emu (4,8)
- 40 Unnaturally white Ibis – location vague without glasses (10)
- 43 Acknowledgement achieved by top couples with serious study (6)
- 44 Currently having car problems (8)
- 45 Fancy chook goes "garble garble" (6)
- 49 Mutual inverse (9)
- 51 Asian songster's uncontrolled hunt has peril (6,6)
- 53 The most strident in a flap led to us (7)
- 54 Much appreciated thanks, I'd initially hoped differently (9)
- 55 Shorebird has a sole characteristic (5)
- 56 Administrator arranges arrest, confining soldier and leading rebel (9)
- 57 Make standard gripe about this African pheasant (4,9)

DOWN

- 1 In turn, I'd got confused and excited on finding this Himalayan bird (6,3)
- 2 I care to play with this! (7)
- 3 Yoga is bliss without a performing waterbird (6,4)
- 4 In this condition, a starving individual takes in anything to get started (6)
- 5 Stones found this was unavailable (12)
- 6 Run at first, not quite vigorous but quite thorough (8)
- 7 Use one at a time to keep tidy (4)
- 8 These were birds? False, true or pass? (10)
- 9 Raptor taking large food items (6)
- 10 Was down, is now developing a method for a positive lift (10)
- 11 Resting area primarily for Ruffs or other shorebird types (5)
- 12 African bird gets ready to reward press (6,7)
- 20 Outer layers of crisp pea damaged (8)
- 22 Strangely, a tactic beginners initially consider appropriate to find this African passerine (6,3)
- 23 Inherit a flogging and hanging (2,3,3)
- 25 Migrating tern sites can attract these (9)
- 27 A Russian bird that's remarkably true in a teen's trouble (5,3)
- 28 Getting to Dili is remote travelling (8)
- 29 Barbara not eat whale meat, stir-fried? It's a Nassau specialty (6,7)
- 32 They used old retorts, they think (11)
- 33 Cape widow attracts cowardly cleric (6,6)
- 37 Outdoor peril a Red Siskin can certainly manage (4,6)
- 38 In general, 10 hens were flying (10)
- 41 Orchestra performance sometimes is misplaced (9)
- 42 All is not ready to mount (8)
- 46 Caught on the rebound, Edwina moved quickly (7)
- 47 Nosy night bird?(6)
- 48 A place for wildlife, located under their tails (6)
- 50 Clasped, hung around (5)
- 52 Partial skeleton: back, male areas (4)

Solutions

The Bittern Puzzle #01

W	E	D	G	I	E		P	A	G	O	D	A	S		B	O	B	O	L	I	N	K	
	A		R		B		A		U		U		H		U		R		A		A		
	G	R	E	Y	B	A	C	K	E	D	S	T	O	R	M	P	E	T	R	E	L		
	L		Y		T		E		S		K		N		P		E		K		L		
L	E	A	F	B	I	R	D		S	K	Y	L	A	R	K		D	U	B	L	I	N	
			A		D				E		R				I				U		N		
L	A	W	N	T	E	N	N	I	S		O	R	G	A	N	G	R	I	N	D	E	R	
	L		T		S		E				B		O		L		A		T				
A	B	B	A			I	M	P	E	R	I	A	L		Y	U	M	M	I	E	S	T	
	A		I		B		E		N		N		D			B		N		I			
S	T	E	L	L	E	R	S	J	A	Y	S			C	O	M	M	O	N	G	U	L	L
	R				D		I		C					R		E		T				V	
C	O	A	T	C	L	O	S	E	T			G	R	E	E	N	W	A	R	B	L	E	R
	S		R		I				A		U		S		T		N		L		R		
A	S	T	E	R	N	A	L			B	A	N	D	T	A	I	L			U	R	E	A
			E		E		I		L		S				O		F		E		Y		
C	H	E	S	T	N	U	T	T	E	A	L			L	A	N	D	L	U	B	B	E	R
	A		W				I			I			A				A		U				
C	L	O	A	C	A			G	L	E	A	N	E	R		I	L	M	E	N	I	T	E
	C		L		W		A		C		G		I		V		I		T		A		
	Y	E	L	L	O	W	B	I	L	L	E	D	S	P	O	O	N	B	I	L	L		
	O		O		K		L		A		R		S		R		G		N		O		
A	N	Y	W	H	E	R	E		T	U	S	C	A	N	Y		O	R	G	A	N	S	

The Bittern Puzzle #02

		W	A	T	E	R	B	I	R	D		B	O	A	R	D	W	A	L	K	S		
P		H		I		O		N		E		A		S		U		N		N			
I	N	E	R	T	I	A		C	A	P	E	B	A	T	I	S		T	H	E	I	R	
P		E		A		D		U		O		A		E		K		E		E		I	
I	S	L	A	N	D	T	H	R	U	S	H		G	R	E	Y	F	A	L	C	O	N	
N				O		E					I		N		N		G		T		A		G
G	L	O	S	S	Y	S	W	I	F	T	L	E	T		P	R	E	E	M	P	T	S	
C		V		A		T		T		E		D		E		A		R				I	
R	U	E	F	U	L		R	U	D	D	Y	D	U	C	K	S		C	O	V	I	D	
O		N		R		D		R				I		O		S		H		I		E	
W	E	B	S		O	R	N	I	T	H	I	C		W	O	W	F	A	C	T	O	R	
		I		H		A		B		E		K		A		R		T		A			
H	A	R	M	O	N	I	C	A		A	N	Y	O	R	D	E	R		A	L	P	S	
A		D		U		N		T		Y				R		N		R		I		U	
R	U	S	E	S		A	R	I	T	H	M	E	T	I	C		S	E	A	S	O	N	
D				E		G		S		R		E		O		O		C		E		G	
H	U	C	K	S	T	E	R		C	O	L	L	A	R	E	D	P	E	T	R	E	L	
E		R		P		S		A		W		S				D		P				A	
A	P	O	C	A	L	Y	P	S	E		S	H	Y	A	L	B	A	T	R	O	S	S	
D		W		R		S		C		O		A		L		A		A		R		S	
S	O	B	E	R		T	R	E	E	P	I	P	I	T		L	I	C	E	N	S	E	
		A		O		E		N		A		E		O		L		L		I		S	
	D	R	A	W	N	M	A	T	C	H		D	I	S	A	S	T	E	R	S			

The Bittern Puzzle #03

G	R	E	Y	G	R	A	S	S	W	R	E	N		P	R	O	S	P	E	R	E	D		
R		R		L		S		A		I		E		T		S		I		O		E		
O	R	O	N	O		I	N	T	E	G	R	A	T	E		P	I	N	I	O	N	S		
U		T		S		T		I		O		T		R		R		F		S		E		
N	A	I	L	S	C	I	S	S	O	R	S		H	O	N	E	Y	E	A	T	E	R		
D		C		Y		A		F		O			S		Y		A					T		
T	R	A	G	I	C			A	Z	U	R	E	J	A	Y		S	T	O	A	T	S		
I				B		I		C		S		P		U				H		C		P		
T	R	I	P	I	N	N	A	T	E		S	I	E	R	R	A	N	E	V	A	D	A		
		N		S		T		I		T		C		S		Z		R		C		R		
B	A	T	H			H	O	O	L	I	G	A	N		S	U	P	E	R	I	O	R		
A		E		P		E		N		M		R		Y		R		D		A		O		
H	A	R	D	H	E	A	D		C	O	M	P	L	E	T	E			S	T	O	W		
A		E		I		I		S		R		S		L		T		E		I				
M	U	S	K	L	O	R	I	K	E	E	T		A	L	B	I	N	I	S	T	I	C		
A		T		O				I		S		S		O		T		S				A		
W	I	S	E	S	T			U	N	D	E	R	T	O	W			L	E	G	B	A	R	
A				O		H		C				A		B		F		N		O		T		
R	E	C	I	P	R	O	C	A	L			A	L	P	I	N	E	T	H	R	U	S	H	
B		L		H		O		N		L		L		S		E		O		N		O		
L	O	U	D	E	S	T				C	H	E	R	I	S	H	E	D		W	A	D	E	R
E		N		R		E		E		K		O		O		E		E		E		S		
R	E	G	I	S	T	R	A	R			S	A	N	D	P	A	R	T	R	I	D	G	E	

