

39 Cattle Egret



Cattle Egret. Autumn (03-X).

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

IDENTIFICACIÓN

45-52 cm. White plumage with buff patches on crown, breast and upperparts in breeding time, whiter in winter; orange legs, bill and eyes in breeding period, dark green legs and yellow bill and eyes in winter. **Juveniles** are all white with dark legs.



Cattle Egret. Spring. Pattern of head and breast.



Cattle Egret. Autumn. Pattern of head and breast.



SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Little Egret**, which has white plumage, dark bill and black legs with yellow toes.



Little Egret



SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. **Male** with wing longer than 260 mm. **CAUTION:** birds with wing shorter than 260 mm can belong to both sexes.

AGEING

2 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with white plumage; white crown.

Adult in **breeding** plumage with buff crown; breast and upperparts; in **non-breeding** plumage white with buff crown.

In **winter**, after the **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moults, ageing is not possible using plumage characters.



Cattle Egret. Spring. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



39 Cattle Egret



Cattle Egret. Spring. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right juvenile.



Cattle Egret. Summer. Juvenile (26-VII).

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in November. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to crown and body feathers. Both ages obtain their ornamental feathers in **spring** in a **prebreeding** moult.

PHENOLOGY

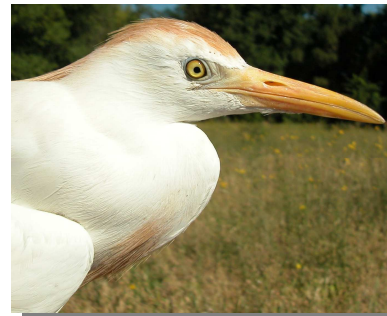
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, breeding in a few number of places in the Ebro Valley. In winter is a common bird in irrigated areas.

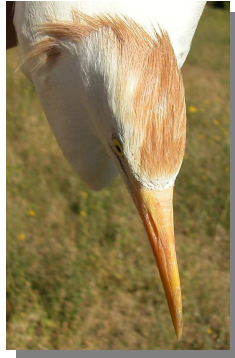
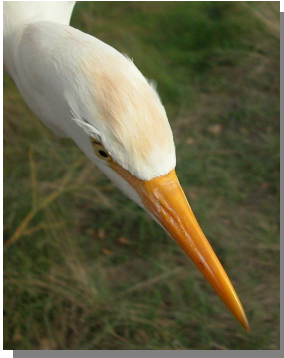


Cattle Egret. Summer. Adult (26-VII).

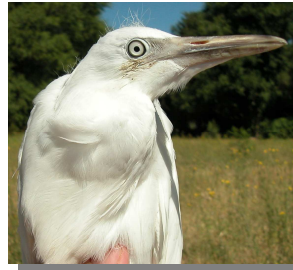


Cattle Egret. Head pattern: top in autumn (03-X); middle adult in summer (26-VII); bottom juvenile (26-VII).

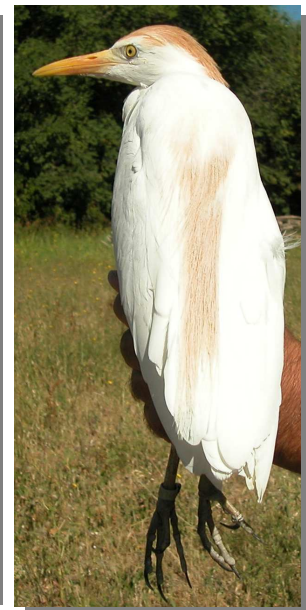
39 Cattle Egret



Cattle Egret. Crown pattern: top left in autumn (03-X); top right adult in summer (26-VII); left juvenile (26-VII).



Cattle Egret. Breast pattern: top left in autumn (03-X); top right adult in summer (26-VII); left juvenile (26-VII).

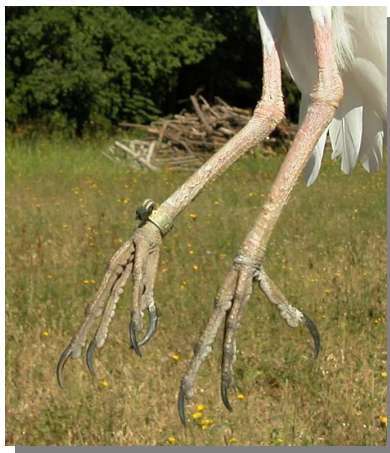


Cattle Egret. Nape pattern: top left in autumn (03-X); top right adult in summer (26-VII); left juvenile (26-VII).



Cattle Egret. Upperparts pattern: top left in autumn (03-X); top right adult in summer (26-VII); left juvenile (26-VII).

39 Cattle Egret



Cattle Egret.
L e g s
p a t t e r n : t o p
i n a u t u m n
(0 3 - X) ;
m i d d l e a d u l t
i n s u m m e r
(2 6 - V I I) ;
b o t t o m
j u v e n i l e (2 6 -
V I I) .



Cattle Egret. Autumn: pattern of wing (03-X).



Cattle Egret. Summer. Adult: pattern of wing (26-VII).



Cattle Egret. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of wing (26-VII).