

41 Little Egret



Little Egret. Spring. Adult (10-III)

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)

IDENTIFICATION

55-65 cm. Wholly white plumage; dark bill; black legs with yellow feet; in **breeding** plumage with long ornamental feathers on chest, mantle, scapulars and head.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Cattle Egret**, which has buff crown, yellow bill and legs with similar colour than feet. **Great Egret** is a bigger heron (85-102 cm).



Cattle Egret: non breeding plumage.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile similar to **adult** but without ornamental feathers; brown bill; bare skin on face grey; feet grey-green; fresh plumage.

2nd year with **juvenile** flight feathers and tail; mantle and scapulars with ornamental feathers less developed than **adults**.

Adult with ornamental feathers well developed; black bill; bare skin on face grey-green; feet yellow.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult; starting in breeding areas and finished in winter quarters. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers, usually in wintering quarters. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult reduced to ornamental feathers.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor, with scarce wintering birds. Breeds in some places of the Ebro river being more common on passage.



Little Egret. Spring. Adult: head pattern (10-III)

41 Little Egret



Little Egret. Spring. Adult: crown pattern (10-III)



Little Egret. Spring. Adult: tail pattern (10-III)



Little Egret. Spring. Adult: nape pattern (10-III)



Little Egret. Spring. Adult: pattern of primaries (10-III)



Little Egret. Spring. Adult: breast pattern (10-III)



Little Egret. Spring. Adult: pattern of secondaries (10-III)



Little Egret. Spring. Adult: upperpart pattern (10-III)



Little Egret. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (10-III)