

42 Western Great Egret

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SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult; usually finished in November. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers, usually finished in november. 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

WESTERN GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

IDENTIFICATION

85-102 cm. Wholly white plumage; dark bill in **breeding** birds and yellow in winter; legs and feet green blackish; in **breeding** plumage with long ornamental feathers on chest, mantle and

SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls a **Little Egret** which is a smaller heron (55-65 cm).

STATUS IN ARAGON

With presence in the Region only since recent times being more common each year. It's mainly a wintering species but it can found during all the seasons being foreseeable its breeding.



Little Egret

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile similar to **adult** but without ornamental feathers; yellow bill; fresh plumage.

2nd year spring with **juvenile** flight feathers and tail, all equally worn.

Adult with ornamental feathers well developed in **breeding** plumage; without the long ornamental feathers in winter; black bill in **breeding** period and yellow in winter.