

39 Western Cattle Egret

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

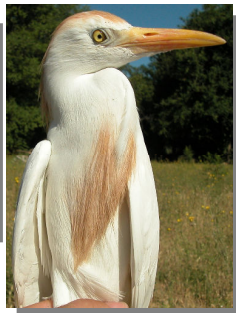
WESTERN CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

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



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

4 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile/1st year autumn with white plumage; white crown; black legs becoming dark greenish.

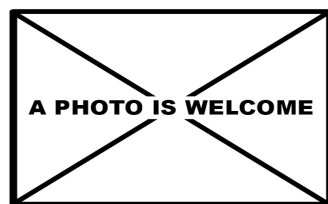
2nd year spring sometimes with breast and scapular feathers very reduced and poorly coloured buff; if retained, then **juvenile** outer primaries and median secondaries worn and pointed.

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring only in some birds with **juvenile** outer primaries and median secondaries retained, which will be very bleached and worn.

Adult in **breeding** plumage with cream-buff crown, breast, upperparts and scapulars; in **non-breeding** plumage white with cream-buff feathers on the upper breast and mantle.

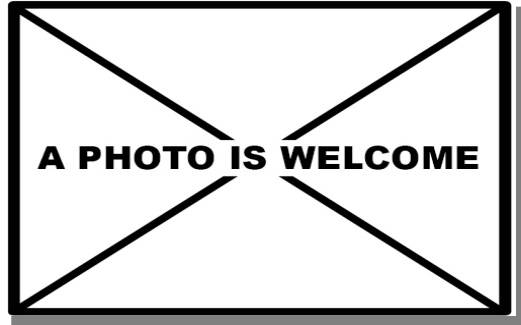


Cattle Egret. Autumn. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom 1st year



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Cattle Egret. Spring. Ageing. Pattern of breast: top left adult; top right 2nd year; left juvenile.

Cattle Egret. Spring. 2nd year ().



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

MOULT

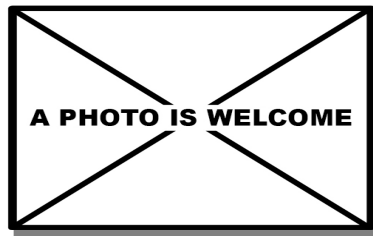
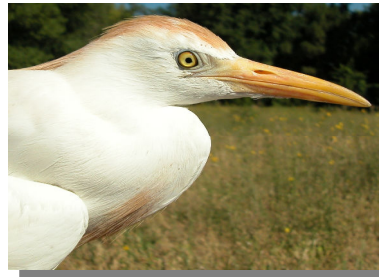
Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in November. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to crown and body feathers. From February to April, there is a **prebreeding** moult reduced to the acquisition of ornamental feathers in **adults**. The **2nd year** birds have a variable moult changing the ornamental feathers, all or part of the body plumage and all or part of the flight and tail feathers.

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.

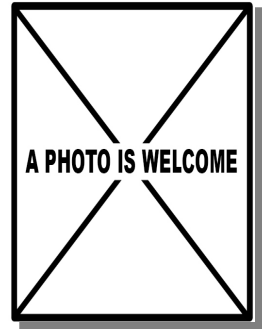
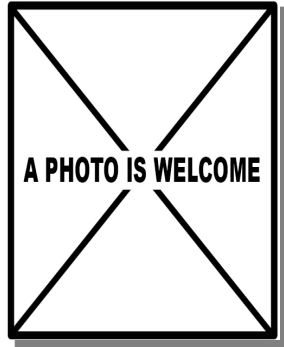
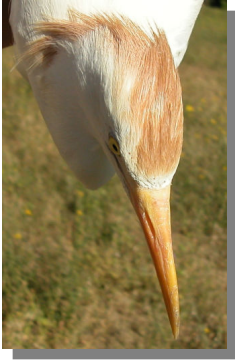


Cattle Egret. Spring. Head pattern: : top adult (26-VII); middle 2nd year (); bottom juvenile (26-VII).



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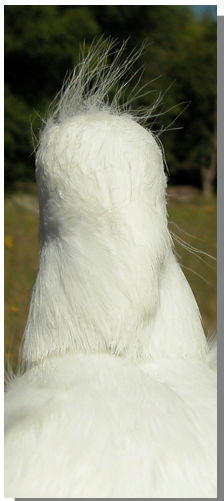
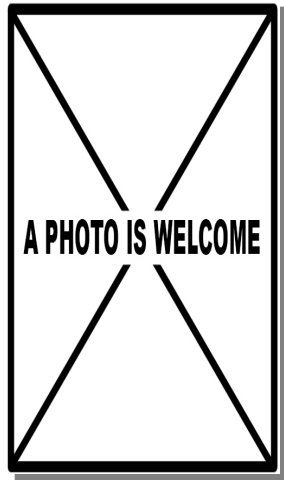
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Cattle Egret. Spring. Crown pattern: : top left adult (26-VII); top right 2nd year (); left juvenile (26-VII).



Cattle Egret. Spring. Breast pattern: : top left adult (26-VII); top right 2nd year (); left juvenile (26-VII).



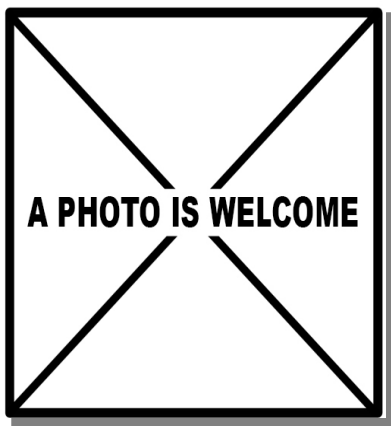
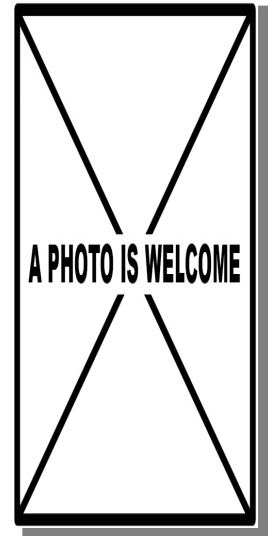
Cattle Egret. Spring. Nape pattern: : top left adult (26-VII); top right 2nd year (); left juvenile (26-VII).



Cattle Egret. Spring. Upperparts pattern: : top left adult (26-VII); top right 2nd year (); left juvenile (26-VII).

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Cattle Egret. Spring. Pattern of legs: top adult (26-VII); middle 2nd year (); bottom juvenile (26-VII).



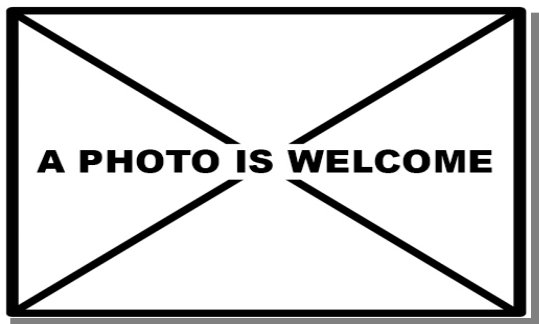
Cattle Egret. Spring. Tail pattern: : top left adult (26-VII); top right 2nd year (); left juvenile (26-VII).



Cattle Egret. Spring. Adult: pattern of primaries (26-VII).

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Cattle Egret. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of primaries ().



Cattle Egret. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (26-VII).



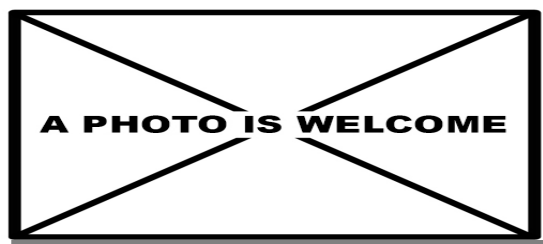
Cattle Egret. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (26-VII).



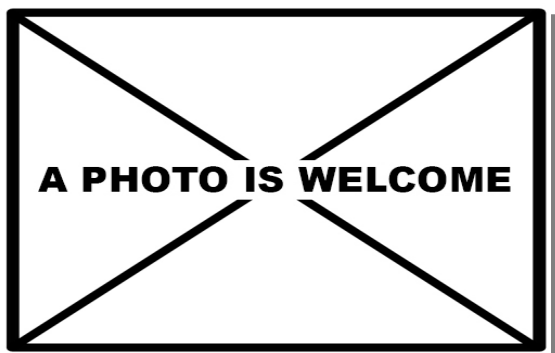
Cattle Egret. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (26-VII).



Cattle Egret. Spring. Adult: pattern of secondaries (26-VII).



Cattle Egret. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing ().



Cattle Egret. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries ().



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

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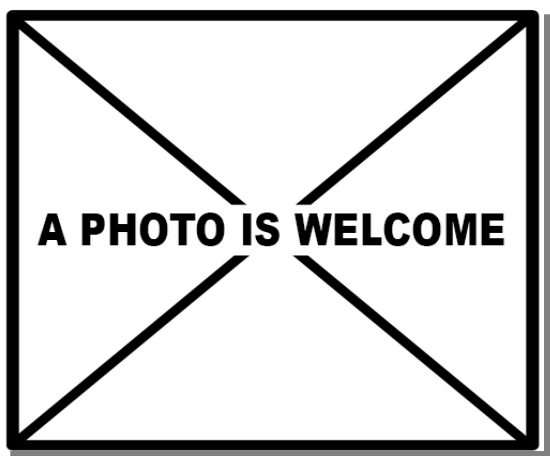
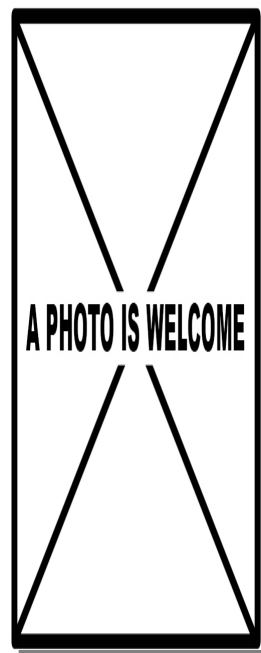
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Cattle Egret. Autumn. Adult (05-XI).



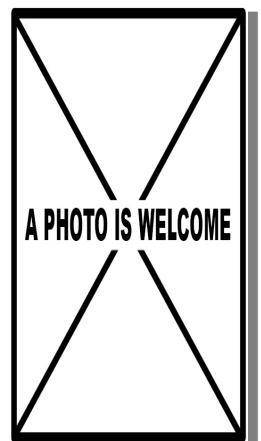
Cattle Egret. Autumn. Crown pattern: left adult (05-XI); right 1st year ().



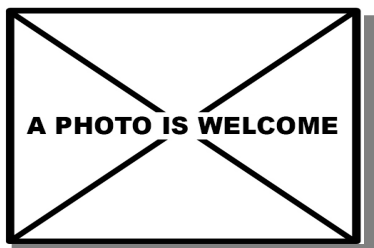
Cattle Egret. Autumn. 1st year ().



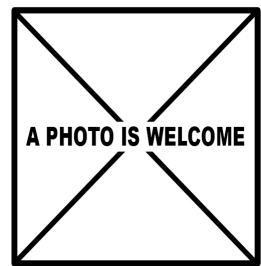
Cattle Egret. Autumn. Nape pattern: left adult (05-XI); right 1st year ().



Cattle Egret. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult (05-XI); bottom 1st year ().

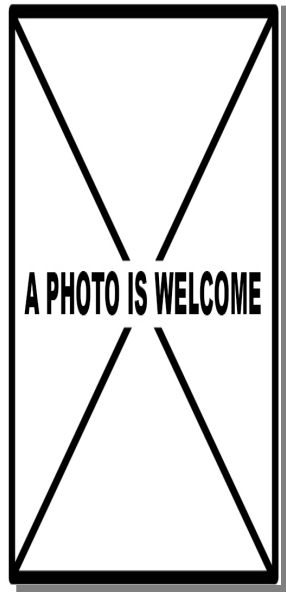


Cattle Egret. Autumn. Breast pattern: left adult (05-XI); right 1st year ().



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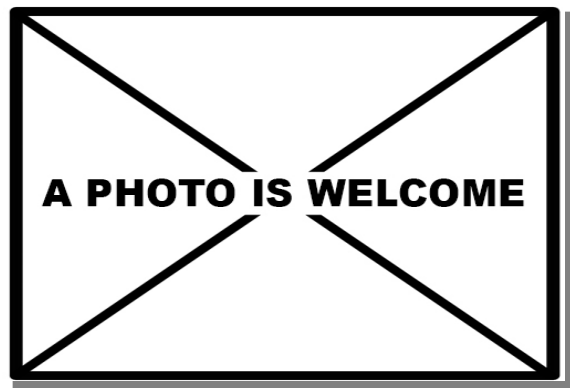
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Cattle Egret. Autumn. Upperparts pattern: left adult (05-XI); right 1st year ().



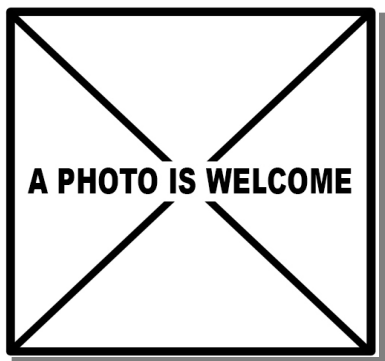
Cattle Egret. Autumn. Adult: pattern of primaries (05-XI).



Cattle Egret. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primaries ().



Cattle Egret. Autumn. Pattern of head: top adult (05-XI); bottom 1st year ().



Cattle Egret. Autumn. Adult: pattern of secondaries (05-XI).

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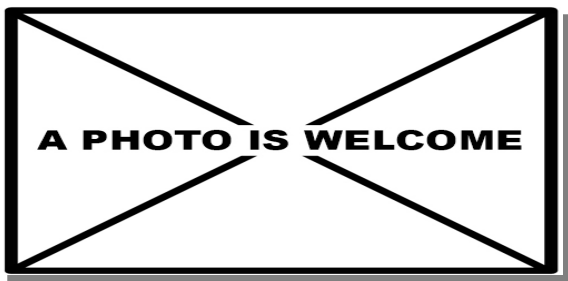
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Cattle Egret. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of secondaries ().



Cattle Egret. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing (05-XI).



Cattle Egret. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing ().