

41 Little Egret

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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.



Little Egret: pattern of ornamental feathers on the nape and legs



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

4 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile similar to **adult** but without ornamental feathers; upperparts and scapulars with short and rounded feathers; brown bill; bare skin on face grey-blue; legs green-yellow; iris grey-blue; fresh plumage with only one generation of wing feathers.

2nd year spring with **juvenile** flight feathers and tail; mantle and scapulars with ornamental feathers less developed than **adults**; breast feathers only slightly elongated and lanceolated; feet green-yellow; iris dull yellow; bare skin on face grey-blue.

Adult in **spring** with long neck and wing plumes; with two ornamental feathers well developed on nape; black bill; iris yellow; bare skin on face grey with trace of yellow toward the eye; legs black; feet bright yellow. In **autumn** with ornamental feathers on upperparts shorter and less numerous; lacking the long ornamental feathers on nape.

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

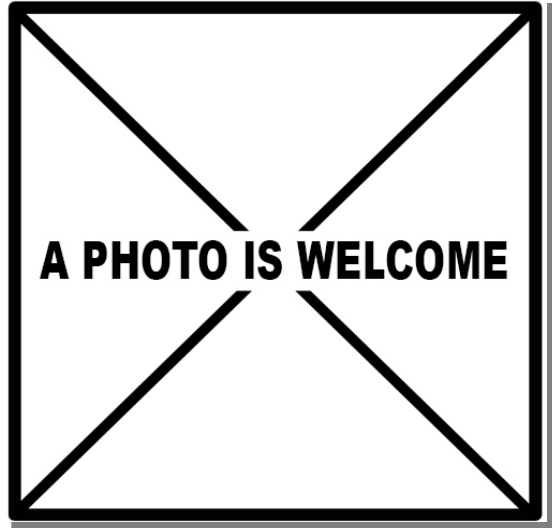
Summer visitor, with scarce wintering birds. Breeds in some places of the Ebro river being more common on passage.

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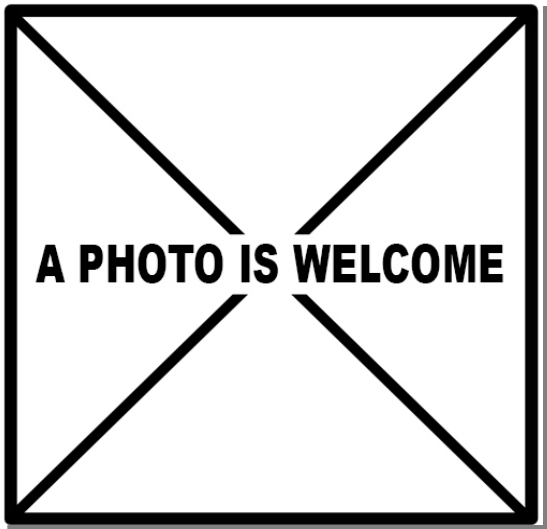
Little Egret. Autumn. Adult (16-XII)



Little Egret. Juvenile ()



Little Egret. Spring. Adult : pattern of head and ornamental feathers (10-III)



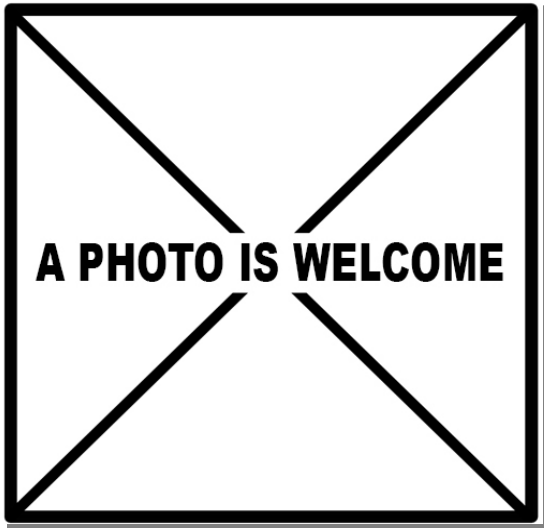
Little Egret. 2nd year spring ()



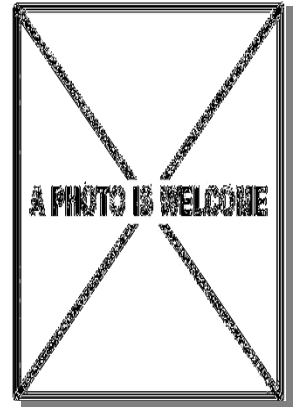
Little Egret. Autumn. Adult: pattern of head and ornamental feathers (16-XII)

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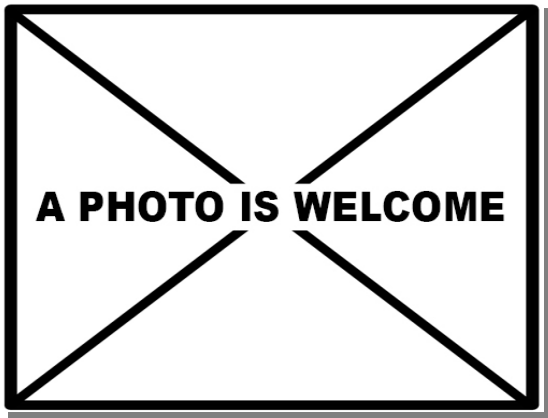
Little Egret. Autumn. 2nd year spring: pattern of head and ornamental feathers ()



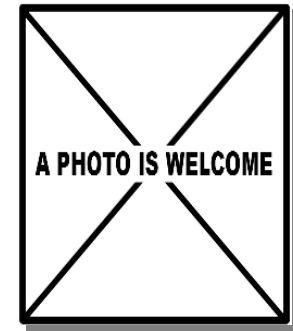
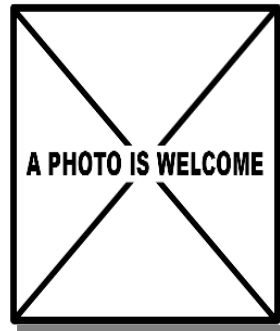
Little Egret. Crown pattern: left 2nd year spring (); right juvenile ()



Little Egret. Adult. Nape pattern: left in spring (10-III); right in autumn (16-XII)



Little Egret. Juvenile: pattern of head and ornamental feathers ()



Little Egret. Nape pattern: left 2nd year spring (); right juvenile ()



Little Egret. Adult. Crown pattern: left in spring (10-III); right in autumn (16-XII)



Little Egret. Adult. Breast pattern: left in spring (10-III); right in autumn (16-XII)

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Little Egret. Breast pattern: left 2nd year spring (); right juvenile ()



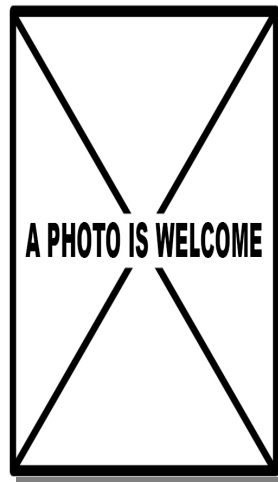
Little Egret. Adult. Tail pattern: left in spring (10-III); right in autumn (16-XII)



Little Egret. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left in spring (10-III); right in autumn (16-XII)



Little Egret. Tail pattern: left 2nd year spring (); right juvenile ()



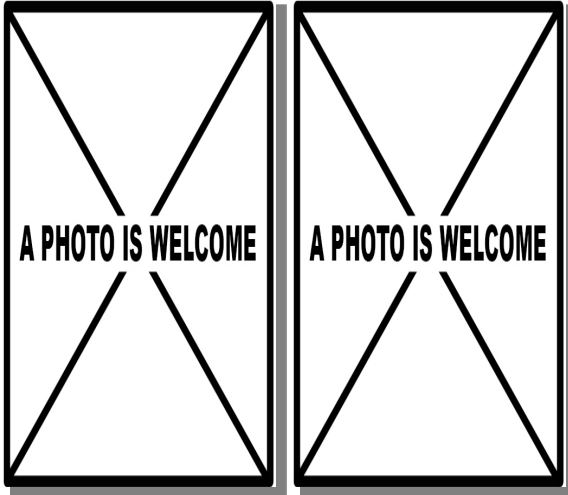
Little Egret. Upperparts pattern: left 2nd year spring (); right juvenile ()



Little Egret. Adult. Pattern of tertials and upperpart ornamental feathers: left in spring (10-III); right in autumn (16-XII)

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Little Egret. Pattern of tertials and upperpart ornamental feathers: left 2nd year spring (); right juvenile ()



Little Egret. Juvenile: pattern of primary covers ()



Little Egret. Adult: pattern of primary covers (16-XII)



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



Little Egret. 2nd year spring: pattern of primary covers ()



Little Egret. Autumn. Adult: pattern of primaries (16-XII)

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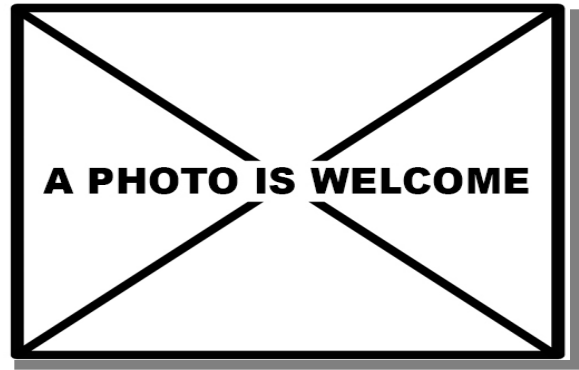
Little Egret. 2nd year spring: pattern of primaries ()



Little Egret. Autumn. Adult: pattern of secondaries (16-XII)



Little Egret. Juvenile: pattern of primaries ()



Little Egret. 2nd year spring: pattern of secondaries ()



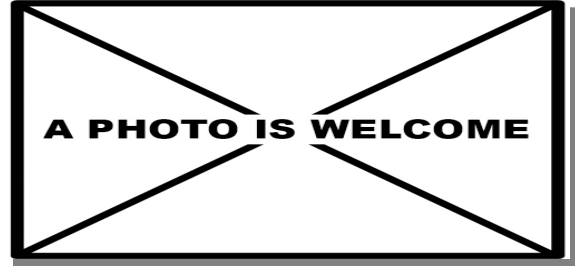
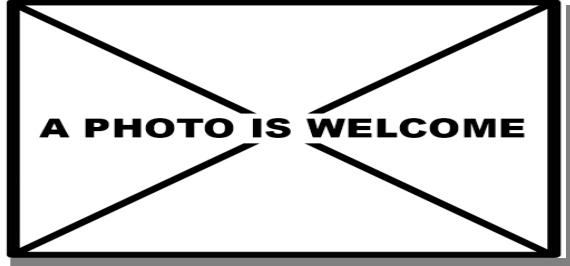
Little Egret. Spring. Adult: pattern of secondaries (10-III)



Little Egret. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries ()

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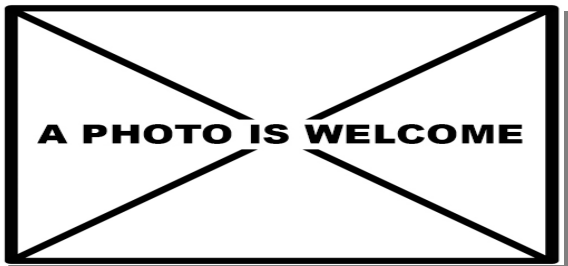
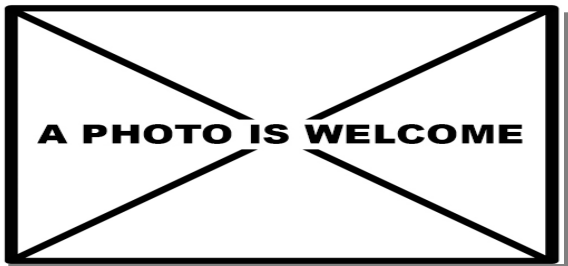


Little Egret. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (10-III)

Little Egret. Juvenile: pattern of wing ()



Little Egret. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing (16-XII)



Little Egret. 2nd year spring: pattern of wing ()