42 Western Great Egret

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.

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...

PHENOLOGY

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.

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.

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

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.

Little Egret

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