

Great Egret: *Ardea alba*



The Great Egret, also known as the Great White Egret or Common Egret is a large egret found across most of the tropical and warmer temperate regions of the world. In North America it is more widely spread, especially across the Sun Belt of the United States and in the rainforests of South America.

The Great Egret is sometimes confused with the Great White Heron in Florida, which is a white morph of the closely related Great Blue Heron.

The Great Egret has all-white plumage, black legs and feet, a yellow bill, and can reach over 3 ft. long, with a wingspan of 5-7 ft., making this species only slightly smaller than the Great Blue Heron. Traditionally classified with the storks, the herons and egrets are actually more closely related to pelicans. The Great Egret is partially migratory, with birds moving south from cold winter areas in the Northern Hemisphere. This species nests in colonies in trees close to a water source. Like the Great Blue Heron, it feeds alone on a diet of fish, crayfish, amphibians and small reptiles.

