



 **Great Egret**

 **Grande aigrette**



*Ardea alba*

The Great Egret is a large heron with entirely white plumage. Its size is comparable to that of the Grey Heron, but the silhouette is slimmer and more elegant. L. 85-100 cm ; E. 145-170 cm.

**Breeding adult:** Elongated ornamental feathers on its back. The bill is black. The legs are black with yellow shins turning red when laying eggs.

**Non breeding adult:** like the breeding adult without the ornamental feathers. Yellow bill.

**Juveniles:** at birth, the chick is white. The beak is thick, yellow with a dark tip. Legs yellow-greenish.

**Voice :** short «kr-hr-hr-hra » given from the adult.

**Eggs:** 3 to 4 eggs (5-6) are laid. The egg is pale blue in colour.

**Nests:** in trees it is smaller than that of the Grey Heron, built with thinner branches. In reedbeds it is a bulky platform built with reeds above the water.

**Habitat:** nests on the ground, in reed beds with the Purple Heron or in trees with the Grey Heron and other heron species.

**Similar species:** the chick is similar of that of Little Egret but the bill is yellow.



@ 22/09/2018 - Guillaume Paulus

**Breeding adult**



**Non breeding adult**

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