

 **Purple Heron**

 **Héron pourpré**



*Ardea purpurea*

It is large and slender. The adult can be recognised by its dark plumage, slate blue above, black and red below. The cap and crest are black. The long, lean neck is russet brown with a black stripe on either side. Legs are yellowish. The bill is greenish yellow, green at the base. L. 70-90 cm; W. 107-143 cm.

Breeding adult: it has two fine black feathers on the back of its neck.

Non breeding adult: like breeding adult without the feathers on the head.

Juveniles: at birth, the chick is blackish-brown on top, the underside is white. The top of the skull is dark brown with white filaments. The bill is short and thick, brownish. The lower part is yellow. Legs green. Young birds are tawny red above and whitish below without the black stripes on the neck.

Voice : short, squeaky "kreek" given in flight by the adult.

Eggs: 4 to 5 eggs are laid (3-8). They are pale greenish-blue.

Nests: it is constructed from reed stems in reed beds and branches in tree colonies.

Habitat: nests on the ground in reed beds with the Grey Heron. May breed in trees.

Similar species: the Grey Heron chick is grey.

**Breeding adult**



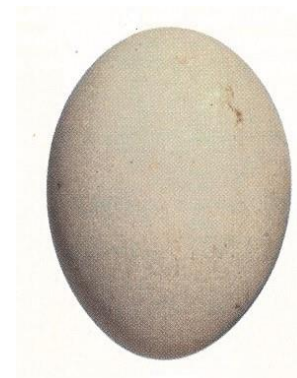
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**Four weeks chicks**



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**Egg**



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