



Eurasian Spoonbill



Spatule blanche

Platalea leucorodia

Cannot be confused because of its long spatulate-tipped bill. Can be mistaken from a distance for a Great Egret because of its size and white plumage. Can be distinguished by the way it feeds, with its beak buried in the water and its head moving sideways as it moves forward. Still compared to the Great Egret, at rest, the body is rounder and held more horizontal. Flight with the neck stretched contrary to the herons.

Breeding adult: crested well visible. Ochre spot on the breast, black bill with yellow tip, white remiges. Black legs.

Non breeding adult : like the adult in breeding plumage but without the crest and without the spot on the breast.

Immature: like the adult but black tips of the feathers and primary coverts, beak and legs fleshy.

Nest : Cluster of branches forming a chimney (like the stork but smaller)

Voice : silent.

L. 80-93 cm; E. 120-135 cm.

Similar species : Great Egret, Little Egret

Nest with Eggs



H.Ferreira / Tour du Valat

Breeding adult



H.Ferreira / Tour du Valat

Immature



H.Dlensi

Chicks from 1 to 4 weeks

1st week – 7th Day



Tour du Valat

2nd week – 14th Day



Tour du Valat

3rd week – 21th Day



Tour du Valat

4th week – 27th Day



Tour du Valat

Whitish body; appearance of the first flight feathers; gray legs; bill longer than the head; can easily get up to feed. Half the size of adult legs.

Appearance of the back feathers; spend time standing and begins to explore outside of the nest.

Chicks gather in nurseries after three weeks. A line of black feathers at the end of the large wing. Adults are rarely seen in the nest.

For more details on the developmental stages of chicks, see [the Spoonbill Chick Age Identification Guide](#)