

White Plumaged Egret & Heron ID Guide

There are 7 species of herons or egrets in the Caribbean that might be seen in all-white plumage. Here are some ID tips:

- *Look at bill color*
- *Look at leg and foot color*
- *Size can help guide possible ID*
- *For birds in breeding plumage look at the plumes and the color of the lores*
- *Remember some birds are only white in juvenile plumage & some have white and dark color morphs*



Snowy Egret

(*Egretta thula*)

Medium

56–66 cm

Yellow lores

Thin, black

Shaggy plumes on head, neck, & back when breeding

Yellow feet

Black legs

Little Egret

(*Egretta garzetta*)

Greenish-gray lores

Thin, black

Two long thin plumes in breeding plumage

Black legs

Medium

56–65 cm

Yellow feet

Reddish Egret: white morph

(*Egretta rufescens*)

Medium to large

70–80 cm

Pink base, black tip

Shaggy plumage on the neck

Dark grey

Little Blue Heron: Juvenile

(*Egretta caerulea*)

Medium

56–74 cm

Blue-gray base, black tip

Immature is initially all white, then molts into blue-gray

Greenish, pale

Ian Davies
ML359980761