

White Plumaged Egret & Heron ID Guide

Seven species of herons or egrets in the Caribbean can appear entirely white. Here are some key ID tips:

- Check the bill color
- Look at the leg and foot color
- Size can help narrow down the species
- In breeding plumage, note the plumes and color of the lores (area between the bill and eye)
- Some species are only white as juveniles, while others have both white and dark 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

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