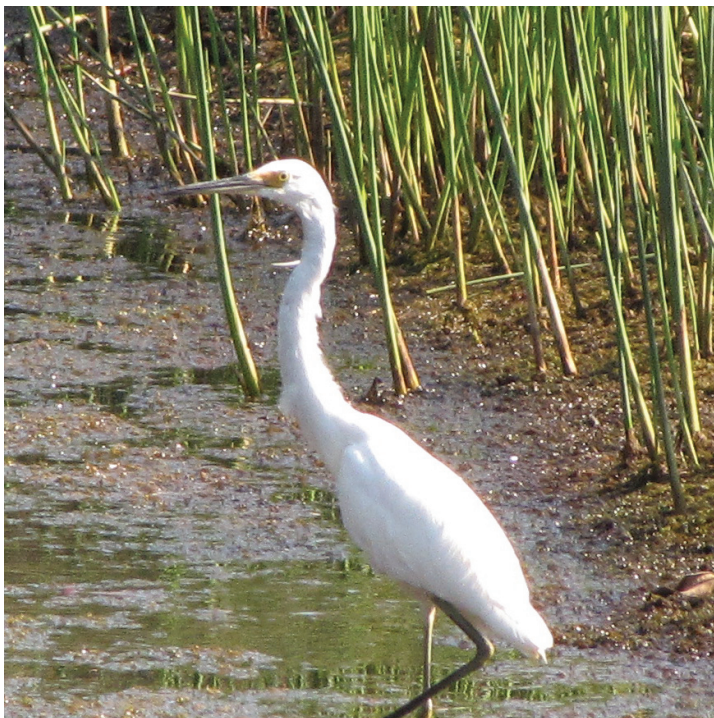


CHAMBERS, S. 2009.
Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.
Little egret: pp 88-90.



LITTLE EGRET

Family Ardeidae

Species *Egretta garzetta*

Common name Little Egret

Status Native vagrant

Size 560 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, White-faced Heron 670 mm)

Abundance Rare

Habitat Found along estuaries.

Worldwide range Wide-ranging, cosmopolitan species which regularly straggles to New Zealand from Australia. In New Zealand it cannot be confused with the Reef Heron as the New Zealand Reef Heron, unlike those of the Pacific Islands,

only comes in a dark grey phase.

New Zealand range Sometimes found at such places as the Puketutu Island causeway Mangere, Miranda, Matata Lagoons, Whakaki Lagoon near Wairoa, Ahuriri Estuary near Napier, Waikanae Estuary near Wellington, Lake Ellesmere in Canterbury, Okarito Lagoon in Westland and the Invercargill Estuary. There are no certain locations.

Description

Upperparts and underparts White. **Bill** Black. **Legs** Black. **Feet** Yellow.

Conspicuous features

- A small all-white heron.
- In breeding plumage it has two very distinctive long narrow plumes which fall from the nape.
- In breeding plumage has ornamental filamentous plumes on back and breast.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Usually a solitary bird but it sometimes associates with the White Heron.
- When feeding it is very active, dashing in pursuit of prey.

Call Harsh croaks.

Nest A tree nester. It does not breed in New Zealand.

Where to find – North Island

South Auckland – Miranda occasionally has a single bird. Expect it at the Stilt Ponds. P. 302.

Shore-bird localities – Likely places are shore-bird localities such as Puketutu Island causeway Mangere, Te Hihi, Matata, Whakaki Lagoon, Ahuriri and Waikanae Estuary.

Where to find – South Island

Canterbury – Lake Ellesmere, in the Lakeside area. P. 351, 352.

Southland – Fortrose Estuary. P. 364.

Southland – Waituna Lagoon east of Invercargill. P. 364.