

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Little egret: p 103.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta immaculata* (Gould 1846), Migrant
15/4/1944 Wairau Bar, Marlborough
March 1985 Norfolk Island

The “white phase Reef Heron” recorded by Wodzicki & Eyles (1944, 1946) is the first record of Little Egret. They noticed a white bird perched on a stick near the entrance to Wahanga Atangaroa lagoon. It was present near Blenheim from April 1944 until at least October 1945. The description given exactly matches that of the Little Egret, so it is surprising that it remained unchallenged for so long. Falla also saw the bird in August 1944, and confirmed it as a Reef Heron. The next record is of one at Ahuriri Lagoon, during June-September 1951, by D.H. Brathwaite, which was thought to be the first record for many years thereafter.