

BEHAVIORAL TRAITS OF A GREAT EGRET

Range and Habitat:

This bird breeds locally from Oregon south to western Mexico, and from Minnesota to the Mississippi Valley and Southeast; and along the Atlantic Coast north to southern New England. It winters regularly from Oregon south through the Southwest, Texas, and Gulf Coast states to Mexico, and on the Atlantic Coast north to New Jersey. It prefers fresh and salt marshes, marshy ponds, and tidal flats.

Breeding and Nesting:

Typically, nests are constructed of sticks and twigs or stems of marsh plants with little or no lining. Nests are placed in medium-sized trees 20-40 feet up. On average, three to four light blue-green eggs are laid from April to July. The incubation period is approximately 23 to 26 days long and is carried out by both adults.

Foraging and Feeding:

This bird feeds mainly on crayfish, shrimp, aquatic insects, frogs, fish, crabs, and snails. It occasionally feeds on lizards, snakes, salamanders, mice, and moles.

Vocalization:

The species utters a loud, low-pitched, hoarse croak.

Similar Species:

Similar is the smaller Snowy Egret, which has a black bill and legs and yellow feet. In southern Florida, the white form of the Great Blue Heron is similar but larger, with greenish-yellow legs.



Breeding Locations:

Lakes, Marshes, freshwater, Rivers, Swamps

Breeding Type:

Expanding northward

Breeding Population:

Lakes, Marshes, freshwater, Rivers, Swamps

Egg Color:

Blue Green, Light Blue

Number of Eggs: 1 - 6

Incubation Days: 23 - 26

Egg Incubator: Both sexes

Nest Material:

Made of sticks and lined with fine materials.

Migration: Some migrate