



GREAT EGRET



QUICK FACTS

Scientific Name: *Ardea alba*

Population: ~700,000 (estimated globally)

Lifespan: 10-15 years (wild), up to 22 years (captivity)

Size: 80-104 cm long (31-41 in)

Wingspan: 131-170 cm (52-67 in)

Weight: 0.7-1.5 kg (1.5-3.3 lbs)

Speed: Up to 40 km/h (25 mph) in flight

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- **Color:** Pure white with yellow bill and black legs
- **Sensory Adaptations:** Excellent vision, sensitive bill
- **Limb & Tail Functionality:** Long legs, broad wings

FUN FACT !

They fly with neck retracted

IUCN Red list category
Least Concern

HABITAT & DISTRIBUTION



Range: Worldwide

Preferred Habitat: Wetlands, rivers, coastal areas

Elevation Range: 0-1,500 m (0-4,921 ft)

DIET & NUTRITION

Primary Diet: Fish, frogs, small mammals

Foraging Method:

Stands still to ambush prey

Adaptations: Long legs for wading, sharp bill



UNIQUE ADAPTATIONS

Patient Hunting:

Waits motionless for prey

Neck Retraction:

Folds neck in flight

Survival score

Strength: 6/10

Stealth: 8/10

Adaptability: 7/10

REPRODUCTION & LIFE CYCLE

Mating Season: March–July

Gestation: 23–27 days (incubation)

Clutch Size: 2–6 eggs

Parental Care: Both parents feed chicks for 40–50 days



ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Role: Predator, wetland balance

Indicator Species: Presence indicates healthy wetlands

Cultural Significance: Symbol of purity

THREATS

Habitat loss, pollution, disturbance



CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Wetland preservation, colony protection



Call to Action: Protect wetlands, reduce pollution, spread awareness

INTERESTING FACTS

They build nests high in trees

Great Egrets migrate short distances

Their bill turns black in breeding

