
January 1988

White Egret

Florida Field Naturalist

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Recommended Citation

Florida Field Naturalist (1988) "White Egret," *Florida Field Naturalist*. Vol. 16 : Iss. 2 , Article 4.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/ffn/vol16/iss2/4>

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REVIEW

White egret.—Shingi Itoh. 1986. Yamato Keikokusha Co., Tokyo, Japan. ISBN 4-635-88511-9. 197 pp., 195 color plates. Cloth, 9,800 yen (ca. \$65.00).—When I received this book in the mail, my first reaction was to question who would send me such a nice book. Then I realized I was familiar with the author because we have exchanged reprints on the biology of herons for several years. Shingi Itoh is, by profession, a reknown medical physiologist in Japan. This book represents a fine photographic essay mostly on the three species of white plumaged *Egretta*, called "Sirasagi" in Japan. Itoh has studied the Little Egret (*E. garzetta*), Intermediate Egret (*E. intermedia*), and the eastern Pacific race of the Great Egret (*E. (Casmerodius) alba*) for nearly ten years. Though written in Japanese, the author included an English translation of all photograph captions; the figures, tables, and summary for two reprinted papers in the back of the book also are in English.

The book mostly consists of 195 color photographs of various aspects of the anatomy, behavior, and ecology of herons in Japan. It is divided into sections on daily life (preening, foraging, fighting, and flocking), spring (courtship, nest building, egg-laying, and incubation), summer (hatching, brooding, feeding, and development of the young), autumn and winter (post-breeding dispersal), and dance (flight). I especially appreciated the detailed, fine quality photographs of the white egrets' breeding soft-part colors and aigrette plumes (plates 3-8). Whereas I am familiar with the Great Egret in North America, I was amazed to see this species associated with different plants and wetlands habitats in Japan. A series of pictures (plates 90-102) beatifully show a pair of Little Egrets from the pre-pairing, hostile courtship phase through copulation and the initiation of nest building. Some of the photography is pure art: back-lit Great Egrets erecting their aigrettes in a hostile interaction (plate 17), a large group of Little Egrets loafing along a shoreline during a snow storm (plates 37, 178), a Little Egret perched in a Japanese cherry tree in full bloom (plate 85), and egrets foraging in a *Phragmites* marsh during a foggy morning with the moon still visible in the sky (plate 151). However, several out of focus pictures ("special effect" shots?) of flying egrets (plates, 12, 161, 189) or grainy enlargements (plates 83, 98, 170) tend to detract from the other fine photographs.

After reading through the White Egret, I contacted several local book stores and the University of Florida library to find information about the availability and cost of this book. Even with the ISBN number, information about this book is limited. Apparently the book is not currently available in the U.S., but the author is negotiating for distribution outside Japan. I hope this occurs in the near future, because the White Egret transcends the language barrier. Look for this book in future bird book catalogues.—**James A. Rodgers, Jr.**, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, 4005 S. Main St., Gainesville, Florida 32601.

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CORRIGENDUM

In an article in the *Florida Field Naturalist* (15: 55) I stated that no specimen of the Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) had been found in south Florida, but O. T. Owre informs me that there is such a specimen in the University of Miami collection (UMRC 4896) taken 6 miles W of Everglade City and 4 miles N of Everglades National Park on 30 December 1962. I had overlooked this entry when looking through the UMRC catalog.—**Henry M. Stevenson**, 905 Briarcliff Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32308.

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