
THE FIRST RECORD OF THE CHINESE EGRET ON JAVA

by

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This communication documents the record of Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes* that has been listed for Java by Andrew (1992). The record was submitted to the editors in August 1989, and the original text is reproduced here with only minor changes.

On 12 April 1988, at a coastal lagoon ca 9.5 km west of Pangandaran, on the south coast of West Java, the observer's attention was drawn to a medium-sized, all white egret feeding on the edge of a lagoon. The bird resembled a Little Egret *E. garzetta* in size and structure, but differed in having an all yellow bill, black legs and bright yellow feet (*nigripes*, the race occurring in Java, has all black feet). The distinctive yellow feet also eliminated all the pale-billed egrets known from Java (Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Intermediate Egret *E. intermedia*, Great Egret *Casmerodius albus* and the pale morph of the Reef Egret *E. sacra*). The bird's identity as a summer plumage Chinese Egret was resolved when it turned into the wind and displayed its shaggy nuchal crest (resembling that of the Snowy Egret *E. thula* of the Americas). The bird fed alone, and did not allow close approach in the open terrain.

Reference

Andrew, P. 1992. *The birds of Indonesia: a checklist (Peters' sequence)*. Jakarta: Indonesian Ornithological Society.

* Deceased.