

Cherokee Ethnobiology

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SNOWY EGRET

Cherokee Importance

Egrets, Herons, and Cranes of all types were important to the Cherokees for a number of cultural reasons. Feathers from all of these birds were utilized as components of both ceremonial and everyday attire. Chief John Ross's Cherokee name was "Great White Crane" – Gu is gu i (ᎠᎵᎦᎵᎦ).

Description

Snowy egrets, though much smaller than the great blue heron and great egret, are large wading birds with white feathers. They look very similar to the great egret in color, but have a mostly black bill and legs; the feet are what help distinguish them from the great egret, which happen to be yellow instead of black. The snowy egret is fairly uncommon in this region, but can occasionally be seen wading in the summer time.

Where found:	Snowy egrets can be found anywhere there is a shoreline, from ponds, streams, wetlands, rivers or lakes.
Other names:	White egret.
Taxonomy:	Kingdom - Animalia Phylum - Chordata Class - Aves Order – Ciconiiformes Family – Ardeidae Genus – <i>Egretta</i> Species – <i>thula</i>

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