

THE AMERICAN EGRET.  
(Herodias egretta)

The American Egret, belongs to the heron family. It is a big bird about forty inches in length, with long neck and long legs. It is almost twice the size of the Snowy Heron (Egretta candidissima). The plumes of the larger bird are straight, while those of the snowy heron are recurved.

The long slender loose-webbed feathers or plumes that grow on the back of the heron in the breeding season have subjected the bird to continual slaughter. Nature provided such beautiful nuptial plumes that it has meant almost the complete extermination of this bird. The habit of the heron is to seek company of its own kind and together nest in colonies. This is another fact favorable to the plume hunter.

There are only two places in Oregon where we have known the American Egret to nest. In the summer of 1905 we explored the Klamath Lake region and made a search for the homes of some of these birds. We made enquiry from many hunters who had been all through the country. They would shake their heads and tell us we should have come twenty years earlier. The only spot in Klamath County where there was any show to find white herons nesting was at Clear Lake. But we found this colony had been practically exterminated. From one old hunter we learned that our only hope of finding the egret in Oregon was to try Malheur Lake, and the hope here was very faint.

Reported at Klamath - search  
Clear Lake - great exterminated

(Ardea  
Herodias Egretta) - great White Egret - White heron - (Oregon bird)  
(Ardea  
Egretta candidissima) Little " " Snowy heron - Bonaparte's

Enlarge  
Miss J. Smith