

# Cherokee Ethnobiology

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Un ne ga Tsa wo yi



## GREAT EGRET

### Cherokee Usage

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" – Guisgui (ᎠᎺᎳᎿ).

### Description

The great egret is a large white bird with black legs and feet. It is slightly smaller than the great blue heron, standing over 3 feet tall and has a slightly shorter wingspan of just under 5 feet. Although they are not as common as their larger cousin, they can be found in the same locations. However, the great egret only occurs in this region from late spring to early fall.

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<b>Where found:</b>	Great egrets can be found anywhere there is a shoreline, from ponds, streams, wetlands, rivers or lakes.
<b>Other Name:</b>	White Heron
<b>Taxonomy:</b>	Kingdom - Animalia Phylum - Chordata Class - Aves Order – Ciconiiformes Family – Ardeidae Genus — <i>Ardea</i> Species — <i>alb</i>

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