



Pied Heron

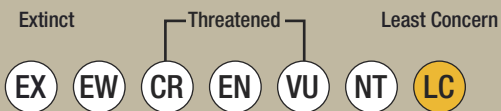
Fast Facts



Other Names: Pied Egret, White-headed Egret

Scientific Name: *Ardea picata*

Conservation Status: Least Concern



Body Length: 43–48 cm

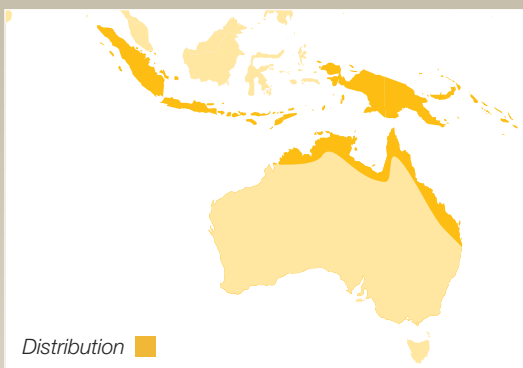
Weight: 225–280 g

Incubation: unknown

Number of eggs: 3–4

Habitat: Coastal wetlands, mangroves and lakes

Distribution: Northern Australia and parts of Papua New Guinea and Indonesia



Description

The Pied Heron has a blue-black crest and body with white cheeks and neck and yellow beak and legs. Immature herons are brown or blue from the top with no crest.

Diet

The Pied Heron is a carnivore and eats insects, frogs, crabs, fish, crustaceans and insects. It pecks swiftly at vegetation while moving along the shore in an attempt to catch its prey.

Breeding

For their nests, the Pied Heron finds a tree and builds a platform of sticks in a tree near water. It lays blue-green eggs and nests in large colonies mixed with egrets and Little Pied Cormorants.

Threats

The Pied Heron has a very large range and population size, however, habitat destruction is a threat.

At Perth Zoo

You can see Pied Herons in the Australian Wetlands.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pied Herons have been known to stand still in deeper waters and strike at their prey as it swims past.