

# Little Egret nominate subspecies *Egretta garzetta garzetta* on mainland Australia

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The Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* is widespread across Eurasia, Africa and Australasia. Global subspecific taxonomy has been problematic and remains somewhat unresolved. Marchant and Higgins recognised two subspecies: the nominate *E. g. garzetta* (widespread in Eurasia east to Japan, and Africa) and *E. g. nigripes* (range encompassing parts of Indonesia, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Australia and occasionally New Zealand), although they note that ‘the subspecific status of Australasian birds still requires further study’. Other sources recognise additional subspecies.

In this paper we acknowledge three subspecies (*E. g. garzetta* in Eurasia, eastern and southern Africa; *E. g. nigripes* in eastern Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and northern and eastern Australia; and *E. g. dimorpha* in Madagascar and the Seychelles [including Aldabra atoll]), but acknowledge that other sources consider the Australian population to be an additional, distinct subspecies (*E. g. immaculata*).