

GREAT WHITE EGRET

Ardea alba

The Great White Egret pictured below was spotted at Kilkeeran by Pat and Dan Roberts on 3 June 2012. On 4 June Chris and Lynda Huxley went to Kilkeeran and managed to take the photos below. This is the first known record of this rare species from Lough Carra.

Great White Egrets are seen in Ireland from time to time. In November 2011 Michael Casey photographed one at Knockmore on Lough Conn, see website link below:

http://www.irishbirding.com/birds/web/Display/sighting/40039/Great_White_Egret.html

According to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), in 2012 the Great White Egret nested in England for the first time. They are usually found in mainland Europe but are now seen quite frequently in England and could become more frequent in Ireland as has happened with the Little Egret.

The Great White Egret eats fish, insects and frogs which it catches by spearing them with its long, sharp beak.





