

Egretta tricolor



Garza Tricolor
Tricolored Heron

Nicholas M. Hellmuth

Garza Tricolor

Egretta tricolor is a photogenic bird visible in Canal de Chiquimulilla, Monterrico, **Guatemala**

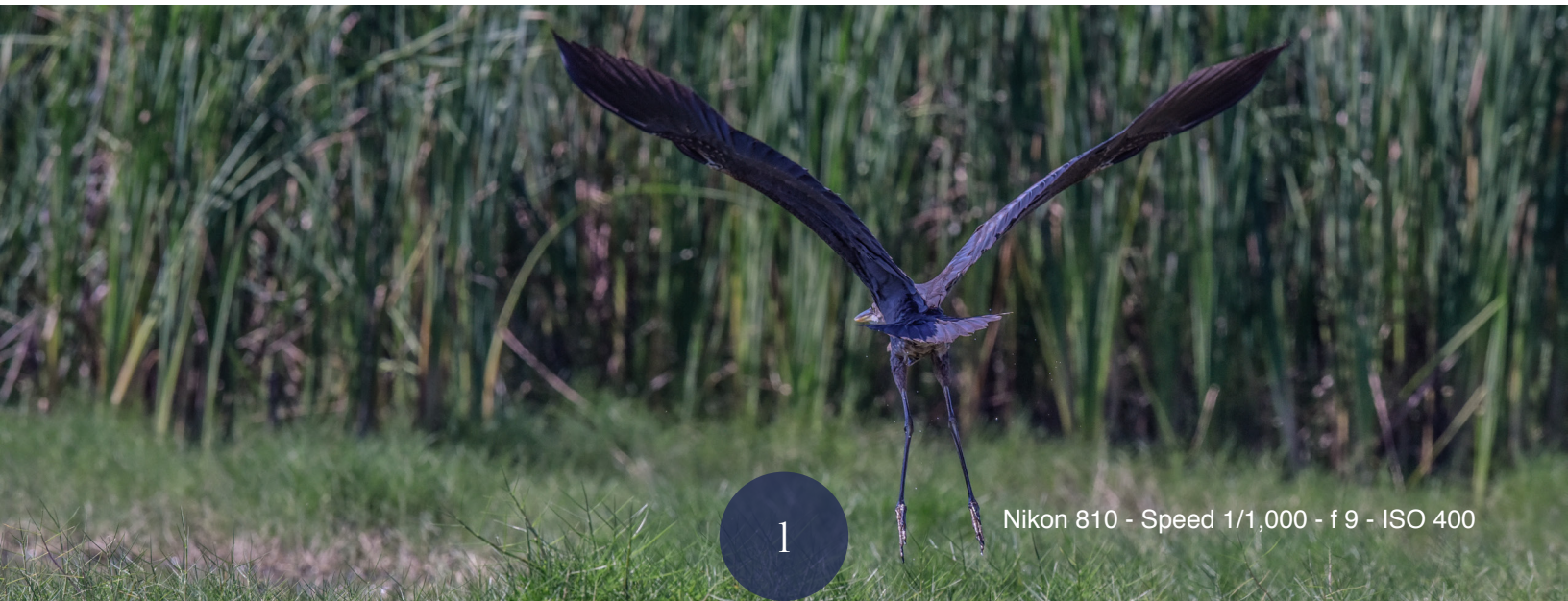
There are dozens of species of water birds occupying the Canal de Chiquimulilla, near Monterrico, Guatemala. The Pacific Ocean beaches are less than a kilometer away. One of the larger species of nice birds to watch here is *Egretta tricolor*, the Garza Tricolor or, in English, the *Tricolored Heron*.


I estimate it is called tricolor because of its blue and white feathers with yellow bill; or its blue, gray, and white features.

As with most wading birds, it nests in colonies.

The species you see depends on what month you visit, since many of the birds are migrants from areas literally thousands of miles away. The tricolor egret was photographed in mid-December, 2015.


It is easy to find a guide and a boat by asking in the turtle rescue center of CECON.





Along the shore you tend to see it near white herons. We even found it in the same tree as a white heron.

Since we were photographing the *tricolored heron*, we did not get the full body of the white bird (the boat rolls from side to side, and especially if you are not using a tripod, your field of view is affected by movement of the boat).

A blue heron is perched on a branch of a tree with green leaves. The heron has a long, sharp beak and a long neck. The background is a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent dark blue box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

When your boat passes by, it may fly up and land in a tree (waiting until your boat leaves so it can return to fishing near the shore).

Height varies from 56 to 76 cm (22 to 30 inches) (Wikipedia).

Here you can see different vegetation: swamp water, grass-like area, then the tall tule reeds (growing out of swampy wet area).

The level of the water changes by the season.







Tricolored heron in full flight.

This photo was taken December 18, 2015, with Nikon D800 or D810 and prime Nikkor telephoto lens.

Nowadays we have a Nikon D5 which is significantly better for bird photography.



Nikon 810 - Speed 1/1,000 - f 9 - ISO 400

Southern USA all the way into Brazil and Peru

You can find this heron along the Gulf coast of USA, adjacent Mexico and in Central America, Caribbean all the way to the middle of Brazil and Peru. Of course it is swamps where the bird is happiest (so not in the Peruvian Andes mountains).

In a future edition (when funding is available) we will show a map of where in the Canal de Chiquimulilla you can find this species. We would also like to include information on what hours of the day, and what months of the year you can see this in the Monterrico area of Guatemala.

Since our boat is parked so we can take better photographs, the bird decides to fly away. This is a great angle to see the impressive wingspan.

Wingspan is almost a meter long (96 cm) which is over one yard (38 inches).

