

Great Blue Heron Feather, Bone, and Prey Remain Collection Protocol

In collaboration with the Heron Observation Network volunteer program through Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, feathers, bones, and prey remains will be collected on the ground within the vicinity of Great Blue Heron colonies. These samples will provide insight into the relative reliance of marine and freshwater prey within the diets of heron's throughout the state. For herons in the Penobscot watershed, these data will serve as a baseline comparison to how diet may change after the river restoration.

Feathers, bones, and prey remains/food boluses are most likely to be found directly beneath nest trees. Make sure feathers, bones, and prey remains/food boluses are not wet, and place them in a ziploc bag. To dry samples, spread out on a paper towel but keep protected from the sun. If samples are damp, a paper bag may work better to allow for further drying. If not promptly delivered, the bag should be stored away from direct sunlight, preferably in a cool, dark place. Be sure to use a separate bag for each colony. Label bag as follows:

Date
Location – Colony number and township
Collector's name

The samples can be delivered to the following locations or contact Erynn to pick up samples in person:

Danielle D'Auria:
Wildlife Biologist, Bird Group
Maine Dept. Inland Fisheries &
Wildlife
650 State St., Bangor, ME 04401
Phone: (207) 941-4478; Fax: (207)
941-4450
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Erynn Call:
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