

# Great Egrets – Historical Perspective

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# It's Not Easy Being a Sage



# Great Egrets – Historical Perspective

- Reviewed areas identified as priorities for future research in McCrimmon et al. 2001. Great Egret. BNA No. 570
- Identified 14 papers in *Waterbirds*, *Auk*, *Condor* and *Wilson Bulletin* published on GREGs between 2001 and 2008
- Reviewed the titles (and some of the presentations) of papers presented in Wading Bird Research and GREG session

<b>BNA Suggested Research Parameters for GREGs</b>	<b>Reported Research Since 2001</b>	<b>Today's Harbor Herons Presentations</b>
Foraging Behavior and Habitat, especially prey size and abundance	6	4
Fidelity to Natal Colony	0	1
Post-breeding dispersal, mortality and recruitment, including age composition	0	2
Nest-site microenvironment	0	0
Nesting behavior and breeding phenology in northern latitudes	1 (not in northern latitudes)	1

<b>BNA Suggested Research Parameters for GREGs</b>	<b>Reported Research Since 2001</b>	<b>Today's Harbor Herons Presentations</b>
Large-scale population assessment	5 (only 2 really large scale)	2 (local or regional)
Model large scale determinants of distribution and abundances	0	0
Effects of researchers on success	0	0
Pathology, pollutants and pesticides	1	0
Bioenergetics	0	0

# The Research Universe As it Might Be Defined by Thomas Friedman

- Considering bailing out Detroit he concluded:
  - the most important rule where knowledge and innovation tools are so widely distributed is:
- *Whatever can be done, will be done. The only question is will it be done **by you or to you.***
- Just don't think it won't be done.
- Friedman was talking about innovations in cars, but the same applies to research about birds.



# Harbor Herons Opportunities

- Good efforts in foraging studies, which complement many being conducted elsewhere.
- Much opportunity for color marking studies in colony fidelity, dispersal, recruitment, mortality etc (Weseloh's work)
- Look at the micro-environments of the colony and nest site.
- Colony habituation to human presence

# Harbor Herons Opportunities

- Great opportunity for studies in physiology and pathology.
- Bioenergetics is an area long neglected in wading birds.
  - Jamacia Bay would be a prime site.
  - The Meadowlands
  - Elbin: “Harbor Herons nest in NY and eat in NJ”.
  - Gathering excellent basic data on habitat use and resource partitioning.
- Look at large-scale, long-term population determination and regulation. Combined multi-regional surveys combined with DNA/RNA studies to assess gene flow
  - Weseloh’s work on GREG populations in Great Lakes Watershed
  - Clarkson’s UVA work.
- Try to build models predicting distribution and abundance.