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Determining Habitat Preferences of Great Egrets through Foraging Rates

Marian Porter Cal Poly Humboldt, mp308@humboldt.edu

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Introduction





Great Egret at the Arcata Marsh



Great Egrets at the Agricultural Sites

Wading birds are associated with being opportunistic in their resource use and reliable indicators of where prey is, as well as telling us about the health of their environment. Great Egrets (Ardea alba) are adaptable and are found in a multitude of habitats, ranging from wetlands, ponds, rivers, agricultural areas and more.

Objectives

- Evaluate if there is habitat preferences for Great Egrets between three different areas across Arcata, California.
- Arcata Marsh
- 2. Mad River Slough
- Agricultural Sites 3.

In the field

Methods

- Utilized binoculars and spotting scope
- Point count survey 3 minutes minimum, 5 minutes maximum
- Actively recorded foraging by strikes and if it was successful





Determining Habitat Preferences of Great Egrets through Foraging Rates Marian Porter Department of Wildlife, Cal Poly Humboldt, 1 Harpst St, Arcata, CA 95521



responses for groups

Box plots were chosen to help visualize my data as they show overall patterns of

Discussion

• Both ANOVA tests revealed that my results were not statistically significant • Strikes: (F(2, 54) = [2.072594], p = [0.14])

Successful Strikes: (F(2, 54) = [1.865815],p=[0.16])

• Ran a two-sample t-test between to compare the Arcata Marsh and the Agricultural Sites: • Strikes: p=0.04

Successful Strikes: p=0.06

• I hypothesis that dedicating more time and observing a larger number of species will provide more solid results.

Management Implications

Continuing to advocate for the conservation and protection of wetlands!

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