



**Testimony for Joint Oversight Hearing on
“How to Manage Large Snakes and Other Invasive Species”**

Summary of Burmese Python Prey Remains Study

Presented by:

Marcy Heacker

Dr. Carla Dove

Feather Identification Lab

Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History

Washington, DC





**Material from Burmese python prey:
whole/partial carcass, whole/fragmented
feathers, and bone fragments**



**Removing White Ibis
material from
gut sample**



Comparing a washed White Ibis feather to a museum specimen

DIVERSITY OF BIRDS EATEN BY BURMESE PYTHONS IN EVERGLADES



Passeriformes (3)



Anseriformes(1)



Galliformes (1)



Podicipediiformes (1)



Columbiformes (1)



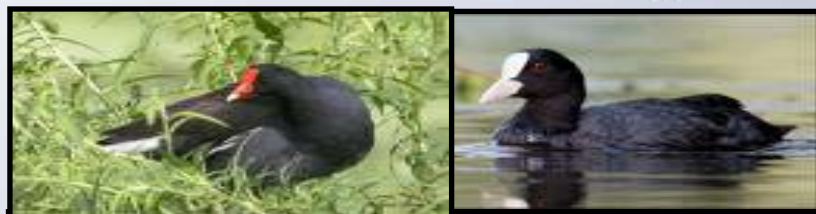
Charadriiformes (1)



Gruiformes (8)



Pelecaniformes (2)



Ciconiiformes (6)



?

Unidentified
bird (15)



Limpkin
2.4 lbs
3 ft wingspan
FL species of concern



**Magnificent Frigatebird feathers
and bill with museum specimen**

Wood Stork
5.3 lbs
5 ft wingspan
Endangered species



Great Blue Heron
5.3 lbs
6 ft wingspan



RESULTS:

- ~ Wide variety of prey species and prey sizes**
- ~ Prey species included one livestock species,
4 Florida state species of concern
and 1 endangered species**



CONCLUSIONS:

- ~ Python species are threat to native fauna, livestock, pets, and humans**
- ~ Need to continue to study & monitor snake populations**
 - ~ Educate the public**
 - ~ Remove snakes from wild environment (hunt/trap)**
- ~ Legislation/regulation to ban import and distribution of constrictor snakes**