What is Your Diagnosis?

History

An immature great egret (Ardea alba) was presented to Tufts Wildlife Clinic because the bird appeared disoriented and was ataxic. The person who presented the bird to the clinic had cared for the bird overnight and had offered it 15 small bait fish, which the bird ate eagerly. On physical examination, the egret was tachycardic, severely dehydrated, weak, and depressed and had labored breathing and bilateral rear limb lameness. The bird weighed 846 g (normal weight range, 900–1360 g) and appeared cachexic. On palpation, the abdominal area felt moderately distended and very firm. Radiographs and basic blood tests, which consisted of measurement of the packed cell volume (PCV), total solids concentration, and blood glucose concentration, were performed. Results of radiographs showed a large, soft tissue opacity dorsal to the heart and extending to the caudal coelomic cavity (Figs 1 and 2). Blood test results showed the

Figure 1. Left lateral radiograph of great egret that presented disoriented and ataxic. Arrows indicate a soft tissue opacity in the coelomic cavity.