

both the nestlings were consumed.

The field of view of the camera was insufficient to determine if the snakes hunted cooperatively, though the 5 min lag between the onset of the event and the arrival of the second individual suggests that this is unlikely. *Pantherophis* are attracted to edge habitats (Blouin-Demers and Weatherhead 2001. Ecology 82:2882–2896) such as the site of this observation, so it is possible that the activities of the first *P. obsoletus* attracted a nearby individual. To our knowledge, this is the first documented occurrence of a songbird nest being depredated by multiple individuals of *P. obsoletus*.

Submitted by **CURTIS ALEXANDER KUKAL**, Department of Natural Resources Management, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409, USA (e-mail: curtis.kukal@ttu.edu); and **W. ANDREW COX**, Division of Biological Sciences, 105 Tucker Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 65211, USA.

PHILODRYAS MATTOGROSSENSIS (Two-colored Racer). **DIET.** *Philodryas mottogrossensis* is a medium-sized, terrestrial colubrid found in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay (Thomas 1976. Unpubl. PhD. thesis. Texas A&M University). Life history data on this species are lacking. Here I report a new anuran diet item for *P. mottogrossensis*.

At 1300 h on 29 April 2009, a *P. mottogrossensis* (SVL = 1014 mm; tail length = 440 mm; 270 g post prey removal) was captured in a pile of adobe bricks in the Isoceño community of Yapiroa, Provincia Cordillera, Departamento Santa Cruz, Bolivia (19.6000°S, 62.5667°W, datum WGS84). When the snake's stomach was checked for food by forced regurgitation, it regurgitated an adult *Leptodactylus bufonius* (Shovel-nosed Chamber Frog; SVL = 60 mm). *Philodryas mottogrossensis* has been described as an opportunistic feeder (Amaral 1933. Bol. Bio. 1:2–4), but this is the first record of *L. bufonius*, an anuran commonly found in the Gran Chaco (Ceï 1980. Monitore Zool. Ital. Monogr. 2:1–609; pers. obs.), in the diet of *P. mottogrossensis*.

Funding for this research was provided by the Applied Biodiversity Science National Science Foundation Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship doctoral program (NSF-IGERT Award #0654377) at Texas A&M University.

Submitted by **CHRISTOPHER M. SCHALK** Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2258, USA; e-mail: cschalk@tamu.edu.

PSEUDOERYX PLICATILIS (South American Pond Snake). **DIET.** The aquatic colubrid snake *Pseudoeryx plicatilis* is distributed in Amazon lowland rainforests and also in the Chaco of northern Argentina and Paraguay (Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1970. Catalogue of the Neotropical Squamata. Part I. Snakes. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. 297, Washington D.C. 347 pp.). Despite its wide distribution, *P. plicatilis* is seemingly rare and little is known about its natural history (Schargel et al. 2007. Herpetologica 63:236–244). Fishes and frogs are reported to compose the diet of *P. plicatilis* (Amaral 1978. Serpentes do Brasil: Iconografia Colorida. Editora da Universidade de São

Paulo, Melhoramentos, São Paulo. 248 pp.; Starace 1998. Guide des Serpents et Amphibiens de Guyane. Ibis Rouge Editions, Guadeloupe. 452 pp.), but there are few specific reports of this species' diet in the literature. Here we report an observation of a freshwater eel, *Synbranchus* sp. (Teleostei: Synbranchidae), as prey of *P. plicatilis*.

On 8 May 2009, at 1400 h, an adult male *P. plicatilis* (SVL = 714 mm; tail length = 162 mm) was seen in the water ingesting a freshwater eel headfirst. The snake was collected near the Unini River's southern margin (01.7658°S, 62.2247°W, datum WGS 84), Barcelos, Amazonas, Brazil, and was maintained in a snake bag for ca. 10 min. During that time, the snake regurgitated a *Synbranchus* sp. (total length = 349 mm). Both specimens were deposited at their respective collections at the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (*P. plicatilis* = INPA-H 25370; *Synbranchus* sp. = INPA 32629).

We thank Albertina P. Lima and Niro Higuchi for providing us with field opportunities at Rio Unini, and Jansen S. Zuanon for the fish identification.

Submitted by **IGOR LUIS KAEFER** (e-mail: igorkaefer@hotmail.com), and **ANELISE MONTANARIN** (e-mail: aneta_bio@yahoo.com.br), Coordenação de Pesquisas em Ecologia, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, CP 478, 69011-970, Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil.

THAMNOPHIS SIRTALIS SIRTALIS (Eastern Gartersnake). **HIBERNACULA.** On 14 April 2008 at 1400 h we counted 25 *Thamnophis s. sirtalis* crawling out of a hole under an oak leaf located at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford, Fairfield Co., Connecticut, USA (41.1338°N, 73.7955°W, datum NAD 83). The day was partially sunny and the temperature was 11°C. We removed the leaf when snakes stopped emerging and observed that the hole was smaller than the diameter of a US quarter (23.5 mm). At first this opening seemed too small to permit the passage of these adult snakes. However, measurements of a random sample of 18 Fairfield Co. adult *T. sirtalis* from the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History yielded an average head width of 11.90 mm at widest point and an average of 8.57 mm in head height (measured from the posterior-most end of the chin shields to the parietal). Thus, this inconspicuous hole would easily provide these snakes with access to the surface from their hibernaculum.

The hole was embedded in loamy soil surrounded by a labyrinth of decomposing root channels in a northeastern deciduous forest comprised primarily of beech, birch, and oak trees. This hole was located 26.5 m NW of a southerly flowing brook, ca. 1.5 m above the water level. Excavation of a test hole and probing with flexible fiberglass sticks revealed a vertical depth of 55.9 cm. Lateral side tunnels 19.1 cm long were observed at a vertical depth of 15.2 cm. Two additional surface holes were found in close proximity of our test hole, 86.4 cm and 71.1 cm away. These had vertical depths of 21.6 cm and 22.9 cm, respectively. Such a mesophytic habitat can provide a moist and humid environment that is covered in the fall by a leaf mat that traps moist warm air. This may help to insulate the holes and underground labyrinth, preventing desiccation or freezing in the winter. In the past, ant mounds with numerous small (6–25 mm diameter) entrances