because the cloaca receives urinary and digestive products, and is important in feces formation and retention. The fact that uric acid and feces were expelled properly, and feces appeared normal, suggests the final portion of the large intestine (and associated sphincter muscles) either retained function or those functions were gained by the posterior most intestinal segments that remained. Regardless, reproduction would have been hindered or impossible for these snakes. We dissected each to identify gonads and determine sex, and found the *T. hammondii* was a female, and the *T. sirtalis* a male. It is not clear if the injured *T. hammondii* would have been able to successfully copulate and retain sperm. The injured *T. sirtalis*, which lost both hemipenes, would certainly be unable to reproduce. Thus, while these snakes were capable of seemingly natural movements, foraging success, and physiological functions, their reproductive fitness following injury may have been highly impaired.

We deposited all snakes as voucher specimens in the herpetology collection of the University of Nevada, Reno Museum of Natural History (UNR): *T. hammondii* CRF 3746 (injured), 3742, 3743, 3765; *T. sirtalis* CRF 3644 (injured), 3642, 3643, 3645, 3674, 3648. We thank California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CAF&W) for permits to CRF (SC-814) and ELE (SC-5399), and UNR IACUC for approval of live animal protocols to CRF. We are grateful to Emily Taylor and Ryan Sikola for field assistance, and Margot Rawlins and Sonoma State University for land access.

KELLY E. ROBINSON, Department of Biology and Program in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89557, USA (e-mail: kellyrobinson4788@gmail.com); **EDWARD L. ERVIN**, Merkel & Associates, Inc., San Diego, CA USA (e-mail: EErvin@merkelinc.com); **MIKE B. TEGLAS**, Department of Agriculture, Veterinary and Rangeland Sciences, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89557, USA (e-mail: mteglas@unr.edu); **CHRIS R. FELDMAN**, Department of Biology and Program in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89557, USA (e-mail: ophis@unr.edu).

***THAMNOPHIS PROXIMUS* (Western Ribbonsnake). DIET.** *Thamnophis proximus* feeds primarily on fish and amphibians (Ernst and Ernst 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Books, Washington, D.C. 668 pp.). Within their diet, anurans are the most commonly ingested taxa (Ernst and Ernst 2003, *op. cit.*; Hampton 2008. Southwest. Nat. 53:115–118). Herein, we report on an observation of *T. proximus* ingesting another species of anuran.

On 30 June 2023, in the late morning, we regurgitated a partially digested *Lithobates blairi* (Plains Leopard Frog) from an adult *T. proximus* in Barber County, Kansas, USA (37.0999°N, 98.9936°W; WGS 84). The *T. proximus* was swimming atop the water's surface along the edge of a fishless earthen pond. Many small newly metamorphosed *L. blairi* were present around the pond's edge. To our knowledge, no prior published observations document *L. blairi* in the diet of *T. proximus* (Ernst and Ernst 2003, *op. cit.*; Hampton 2008, *op. cit.*). Although published observations of predation on *L. blairi* are scarce, records exist for other *Thamnophis* species preying upon *L. blairi*, such as *T. cyrtopsis* (Black-necked Gartersnake), *T. radix* (Plains Gartersnake), and *T. sirtalis* (Common Gartersnake) (Dodd 2013. Frogs of the United States and Canada, Volume 2. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 982 pp.; Tye and Geluso 2019. Herpetol. Rev. 50:603). Conversely, *T. proximus* is known to prey upon other species of *Lithobates*, including *L. catesbeianus* (American Bullfrog), *L. clamitans* (Green Frog), and *L. sphenocephalus* (Southern Leopard Frog) (Hampton 2008, *op. cit.*).

MACKENZIE J. SMITH (e-mail: smithmackenziej@gmail.com), **JOSEPH W. PAYSEN**, Department of Biology, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, Nebraska 68849, USA; **CARTER KRUSE**, Turner Institute of Ecoagriculture, Bozeman, Montana 59718, USA; **KEITH GELUSO**, Department of Biology, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, Nebraska 68849, USA (e-mail: gelusok1@unk.edu).

***THAMNOPHIS RADIX* (Plains Garter Snake). INGESTION ATTEMPT OF FOREIGN OBJECT.** *Thamnophis radix* is a widespread natricine with a distribution encompassing much of central North America, particularly within the Great Plains (Conant and Collins 1998. Peterson Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern Central North America. 3rd Ed. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, New York, New York. 640 pp.). Both diurnal and nocturnal, they are active hunters (Vechiet et al. 2018. Herpetol. Rev. 49:558) with a diverse diet including amphibians, small rodents, and fishes (Ernst and Ernst 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Books, Washington, D.C. 668 pp.; Tuttle and Gregory 2009. J. Herpetol. 43:65–73; Phillips et al.

PHOTO BY JOHNNY BAAKLINY

FIG. 1. Adult female *Thamnophis radix* attempting to consume a foreign object (ear plug) Champaign County, Illinois, USA.

PHOTO BY JOHNNY BAAKLINY

FIG. 2. The ear plug taken from the *Thamnophis radix*, shown in the hand of the author for scale. Champaign County, Illinois, USA.