

LITHOBATES CATESBEIANUS (American Bullfrog). **DIET.** The American bullfrog is a voracious predator. While most of their diet consists of small arthropod prey items, they do consume amphibians, fish, and mammals and more rarely, avian and non-avian reptiles (Jancowski and Orchard, 2013. *Neobiota* 16: 17-31). Prey items can be both numerous and large (Wu et al., 2005, *J. Herp.* 39: 668-674; Liu et al., 2015. *Asian Herp. Res.* 6: 34-44), but relatively few data exist on vertebrate prey size. Here we describe an adult male bullfrog that had consumed an avian prey item estimated to be more than a quarter of its body weight.

Around 2300 h on 17 July 2018 we captured invasive bullfrogs at Fernhill Wetlands (45.509665°N, 123.084887°W, 50 m elev.), Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon, USA. Frogs were captured by hand and euthanized the following morning. As we were preserving individuals, we noted the presence of a large prey item with the feet and tail just emerging from the mouth (Figure 1). We measured the SVL of the bullfrog and dissected the individual removing the stomach, small intestine, and large intestine after formalin injection. The bullfrog (SVL = 117.7 mm, gape = 44.7 mm) had a distended stomach containing an adult spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*). Based on extrapolation of SVL to mass of museum records, we estimate the weight to be about 150 g. The towhee was ingested head first and was only partially digested at the time of dissection. The bird had a wing length of 84 mm and tail length of 86 mm. Adult spotted towhees have an average mass of 41.8 g (range 40.2-54.0; Bartos & Greenlaw, 2015. *Birds of North America*). The bullfrog stomach also had evidence of an earwig (Dermaptera) and a single beetle (Coleoptera; total length 9.6 mm). Towhees have been recorded as bullfrog prey items on several other occasions (spotted towhee in Jancowski and Orchard, 2013; canyon towhee in Dodd, 2013. *Frogs of the United States and Canada*).

Specimens are deposited in the teaching collection of Pacific University (LMC 0154) and were collected under Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Scientific Take Permit 047-18 and Pacific University IACUC R-0025 to L. Chan.

LAUREN M. CHAN (lchan@pacificu.edu), **WYATT ENG**, **BRANDON HERGERT**,
ALISON OSBRINK, and **CHRISTOPHER N. TEMPLETON**, Department of Biology,
Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon 97116, USA.

Fig. 1A Tail feathers and feet of a spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) protruding from the mouth of an American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*). 1B. American bullfrog with spotted towhee prey item removed. PHOTOS BY L. Chan/C. Templeton.

