

tropical Rainforests, pp. 455–505. Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, Connecticut; Sazima and Abe 1991. Studies on Neotropical Fauna and Environment 26:159–164; Strussmann and Sazima 1993. Studies on Neotropical Fauna and Environment 28:157–168; Andrade and Silvano 1996. Revta Bras. Zool. 13:143–150). Birds have also been reported as prey of *O. gubei* (Sazima and Abe, *op. cit.*). Here we report the stomach contents of one *O. petola digitalis* (1287 mm total length), captured in the Municipality of Ibiporã, Paraná, Brazil. One unidentified rodent (ca. 70 mm SVL) and one bird, *Columbina talpacoti* (Aves: Columbiformes, 110 mm bill to uropygial gland length), were found in the snake's stomach. The two specimens were ingested head first. This is the first record of *O. p. digitalis* eating a bird. The snake was deposited in the herpetological collection of the Universidade Estadual de Londrina (MZUEL 150), Londrina, Brazil.

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SISTRURUS CATENATUS (Massasauga). **LITTER SIZE.** Female body size is known to affect litter size in snakes (Seigel and Ford 1987. In Seigel et al. (eds.), Snakes: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, pp. 239–240. MacMillan Publishing Co., New York, New York). Data exist on litter size for *Sistrurus catenatus* across the species' range in North America (Fitch 1985. Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist. Misc. Pub. 76:1–76). Litter size in Illinois *S. catenatus* was 5–14 (mean = 9.5) in six litters examined (Wright 1941. Am. Midl. Nat. 25:659–672). In other states, mean litter size for this viperid ranged from 3 to 19 (Seigel 1986. Biol. Cons. 35:333–346).

On 21 July 1999 a gravid female *S. catenatus* was collected in Cook Co., Illinois, USA. The snake was retained for reproductive data as part of ongoing studies of *Sistrurus catenatus* populations in northeastern Illinois. The snake was maintained alone in an enclosure (23–28°C). The female (660 mm SVL, 520 g on 1 August 1999) gave birth to 20 neonates between 0800–1130 h on 11 August 1999. Total litter mass (taken within 1 h of parturition) was 210 g; afterbirth weight was 80 g. This yielded 290 g of total expended reproductive mass. Female post-parturition weight was 230 g. Relative reproductive effort (Lemen and Voris 1981. J. Anim. Ecol. 50:89–101), obtained by dividing total litter mass by female pre-parturition mass, was calculated to be 40.3% for this female. However, when the female's total expended reproductive mass (290 g) is divided by female pre-parturition mass, total reproductive effort was 55.7%, with 40.3% being effort invested only in neonates.

Neonates were sexed by probing, weighed on an Acculab Pocket Pro digital gram balance, and measured to the nearest 5 mm. The 20 (17 female, 3 male) neonates ranged from 200–220 mm SVL (mean \pm SD = 212.3 \pm 4.88 mm). Body weight ranged from 10.6–12 g. (11.51 \pm 0.589 g). Neonates were individually identified by dorsal-pattern description and photographs, and were released with the female at the capture site. This litter currently represents the largest number of young known for *Sistrurus catenatus* in North America.

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THAMNOPHIS SIRTALIS FITCHI (Valley Garter Snake). **DIET.** Several snakes of the genus *Thamnophis* are recognized scavengers. For example, *T. elegans*, *T. radix* and *T. proximus* are all reported as occasional carrion eaters (Stebbins 1985. A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Massachusetts, 336 pp.). Recently, the most wide ranging garter snake, *T. sirtalis*, has been implicated as a scavenger (Sajdak and Sajdak 1999. Herpetol. Rev. 30:229). Here, we report another instance of scavenging in *T. sirtalis*.

On 9 August 1999, at Furnace Flat in the Tahoe National Forest, Nevada Co., California, USA (39°21'20.5"N, 120°30'13.6"W) we encountered a male *T. sirtalis fitchi* (SVL 486 mm, tail length 130 mm, 46.68 g, deposited in the California Academy of Sciences, CAS 209985) attempting to swallow the anterior portion of a headless fledgling fox sparrow, *Passerella iliaca* (tarsus length 160 mm, 2.46 g, held with CAS 209985). Upon our approach, the snake disengaged its jaws and fled. It was caught and palpated for stomach contents but contained none. Although *T. sirtalis* are known to prey on birds (Gregory 1978. Can. J. Zool. 56:167–174), the sparrow remains were in an advanced stage of decomposition and showed no signs of being previously swallowed and regurgitated by the snake. These observations support the widely held view that *T. sirtalis* is a generalist predator eating a wide variety of prey (Fitch 1965. Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist. 15:493–564).

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THAMNOPHIS SUMICHRASTI (Sumichrast's Garter Snake). **PREY.** *Thamnophis sumichrasti* is a poorly known garter snake that occurs in eastern México. Data on the diet of this species is lacking. However, data on 20 species of garter snakes show that fish and amphibians are the main dietary items (Rossman et al. 1996. The Garter Snakes: Evolution and Ecology, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 332 pp.). On 5 August 1995 we collected a young female *T. sumichrasti* (blotched morph, 117 mm SVL), at the vicinity of Carpinteros, Hidalgo, México. It was basking on the ground of a pine-oak forest. During handling the