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deeper into the hole up to approximately half of its total length, over a period of about two minutes. When the snake emerged from the hole, it had a fish in its mouth, although it remained anchored and submerged. When the snake began moving away we briefly lifted it to the water surface on the frame of a dip net and identified the fish as a Madtom (*Noturus* sp.), ca. 90–100 mm. in total length. Afterwards, the snake swam ~10 m upstream and swallowed the fish tail first over ca. 10 min., with no apparent ill effects from the dorsal fin and pectoral fins spines of the Madtom (Fig. 2). This behavior is interesting because *N. rhombifer* typically swallow live fish rapidly (Clark 1949. J. Tennessee Acad. Sci. 24:244–261) and head first (Gibbons and Dorcas, *op. cit.* and literature cited therein).

Only two species of *Noturus* occur in the region, *N. nocturnus* (Freckled Madtom) and *N. gyrinus* (Tadpole Madtom) (Lee et al. 1980. Atlas of North American Freshwater Fishes. North Carolina St. Mus. Nat. Hist. Raleigh. 854 pp.). The fish consumed by the *N. rhombifer* was most consistent in character with *N. nocturnus*. We thank Kevin W. Conway (TCWC) for help with fish identification.

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NERODIA RHOMBIFER (Diamond-backed Watersnake). DIET. The diet of *Nerodia rhombifer* is composed principally of fishes (Kofron 1978. J. Herpetol. 12:543–554; Mushinsky et al. 1982. Ecology 63:1624–1629). Amphibians comprise a small percentage of the diet, and the only hylid identified as prey of *N. rhombifer* is *Hyla cinerea* (Gibbons and Dorcas 2004. North American Watersnakes A Natural History. Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman. 438 pp.). Herein I provide an observation of *N. rhombifer* preying upon *Hyla chrysoscelis*.

At 1118 h, 14 May 2013 (sunny, 26°C), I hand-captured a *N. rhombifer* (approx. 1 m total length) in a seasonally-inundated wetland in Alexander Co., Illinois, USA. Upon palpation, the snake regurgitated an adult male *H. chrysoscelis* that had been swallowed backwards. The frog exhibited no sign of digestion suggesting recent capture by the snake.

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PANTHEROPHIS ALLEGHANIENSIS (Eastern Ratsnake). DIET AND FORAGING BEHAVIOR. *Pantherophis alleghaniensis* has been documented eating a wide range of birds and mammals (Ernst and Ernst 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Books. Washington D.C. 668 pp.). Advances in miniature infrared camera technology have provided novel insight regarding predation by ratsnakes on songbird nests (Thompson et al. 1999. The Auk 116:259–264). By contrast, circumstances surrounding predation of mammals by ratsnakes are largely unknown and thus our knowledge of predator-prey interactions between ratsnakes and mammals are based primarily on stomach content analyses. Here we describe first-hand accounts of ratsnakes preying on two mammal species by raiding their nests and consuming juveniles.

At 1452 h on 19 March 2013, on the Savannah River Site, Aiken, Co., South Carolina, USA, an adult female *P. alleghaniensis* (SVL = 100 cm, 368 g) being tracked with radio-telemetry was located coiled atop the burrow of a *Sylvilagus floridanus* (Eastern Cottontail; Fig. 1). After 5 min the snake uncoiled and partially entered the nest. From 1457 to 1535 h the snake could be seen



FIG. 1. *Pantherophis alleghaniensis* coiled atop the burrow of a *Sylvilagus floridanus* (Eastern Cottontail) containing three nestlings. The snake would enter the nest and consume one nestling, partially swallow and then regurgitate a second, and leave the third unharmed.

writhing around, presumably constricting prey, while *S. floridanus* distress calls were heard from within the burrow. At 1535 h the snake emerged with a large bolus, moved 5 m, and began basking atop a brushpile. Inspection of the burrow revealed one deceased, partially swallowed and regurgitated *S. floridanus* nestling and one live, apparently unharmed *S. floridanus* nestling. The live nestling was presumably abandoned and was found the following day, nearly deceased, outside the nest entrance. A motion-activated game camera set up at the site revealed that both remaining nestlings were eaten by a *Procyon lotor* (Raccoon) on 21 March 2013.

On 5 July 2013 another radio-tagged *P. alleghaniensis* (male, SVL = 131.4 cm, 980 g) at the same site was located approximately 15 m up a *Quercus latifolia* (Laurel Oak). At 1323 h, while attempting to determine the exact location of the snake, *Sciurus carolinensis* (Gray Squirrel) distress calls were heard. The observer (SRW) witnessed the *P. alleghaniensis* fall from the vicinity of a *S. carolinensis* drey, remaining coiled around a struggling *S. carolinensis* throughout the fall. Although views were obstructed, the *S. carolinensis* was assumed to be a juvenile based on its size. Immediately after the fall an adult *S. carolinensis* ran down the tree, approached to within 0.5 m of the struggling snake and retreated back up the tree after an estimated 10 sec of silent observation. For approximately 90 sec the captured *S. carolinensis* made distress calls and continued to struggle, after which it ceased all activity. The snake released the prey, reoriented itself, and then swallowed squirrel head first within 4 min. Although neither of the prey items are novel additions to the prey list of *P. alleghaniensis*, the observations do provide novel context regarding the foraging habits of this cryptic snake species. Systematic observations of mammal nests are required to determine whether ratsnakes are as important nest predators for mammals as they are for birds.

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PITUOPHIS CATENIFER SAYI (Bullsnake). SCAVENGING. Scavenging is an important, oft-overlooked foraging mode that serves as an integral pathway for energy transfer in terrestrial