RANA CATESBEIANA (American Bullfrog). PREDATION. Although predation on amphibians by Western Burrowing Owls (Athene cunicularia hypugaea) has been previously documented (Bond 1942. Condor 44:183; Clark 2008. Herpetol. Rev. 39:80–81; Green et al. 1993. Northwest Sci. 67[2]:88–93; Hoetker and

Gobalet 1999. J. Raptor Res. 33[4]:333-335; Munro 1929. Condor.31[3]:112-116; Scott 1940. Amer. Midl. Nat. 24[3]:585-593; Thomsen 1971. Condor 73:177-192), published documentation of predation on Rana catesbeiana is lacking. We observed numerous dead R. catesbeiana at the entrance of a Western Burrowing Owl burrow adjacent to a cattle stock pond within a vernal pool complex near Roseville, Placer County, California, USA (NAD 83, 38.8222°N, 121.3847°W) on 23 Sept 2003. Forty-three latestage tadpoles and subadult R. catesbeiana, ranging from ca. 30-80 mm SVL, were collected at the burrow entrance. All of the frogs were desiccated and were missing brain cases or their entire head. Although this is the first published report of Western Burrowing Owl predation on R. catesbeiana of which we are aware, similar instances of predation, including brain case consumption, have been observed on other amphibians including California Tiger Salamander (Ambystoma californiense), Couch's Spadefoot (Scaphiopus couchii), and Great Plains Toad (Bufo cognatus) (C. Conway, pers. obs.; L. Rugge, pers. comm.).

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