

3256



FIG. 1. A Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) landing on a stump with a siren in its talons on 5 Feb 2012 at 2227 h. The species is probably the Lesser Siren (*Siren intermedia*) as several have been captured in the marginal swampy areas of the stream. Wildlife camera set up by Whit Gibbons.

documented sirenid to occur in the creek, *S. lacertina* (Greater Siren) is also found in sluggish intermittent backwaters in the region ("Pen Branch Delta" Luhring and Jennison 2008 J. Fresh. Ecol. 23:445–450) and there are intermittently connected pools on the property. Because the sirenid in the picture appears to be within the size range of a large *S. i. intermedia* or medium *S. lacertina* we are withholding its species-level designation. There are several documented avian predators of "aquatic salamanders" (amphiumids and sirenids) although few cases are specified to the species or even familial level (Luhring 2008. M.S. Thesis, Univ. Georgia, Athens, Georgia). This is the first confirmed observation of a Barred Owl depredating a sirenid.

Funding was provided by the National Science Foundation (Awards DEB-0242874 and DBI-0139572) and the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory under Financial Assistance Award DE-FC09-96SR18-546 between the University of Georgia and the U.S. Department of Energy.

THOMAS M. LUHRING, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Drawer E, Aiken, South Carolina 29802, USA. Current address: University of Missouri, Division of Biological Sciences, 105 Tucker Hall, Columbia, Missouri 65211, USA (e-mail: tmlhwb@mail.missouri.edu); **J. WHITFIELD GIBBONS** (e-mail: wgibbons@srel.edu), and **PARKER W. GIBBONS** (e-mail: gibbons@srel.edu), Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Drawer E, Aiken, South Carolina 29802, USA.

SIREN SP. PREDATION. On 5 February 2012 at 2027 h, a remote game camera captured a digital image of a Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) perched on stump with a sirenid in its talons (Fig. 1). The game camera was situated along Goodland Creek, a first order stream in the Upper Coastal Plain of Orangeburg Co., South Carolina, USA. Although *Siren intermedia intermedia* (Eastern Lesser Siren) has been captured on the property and is the only