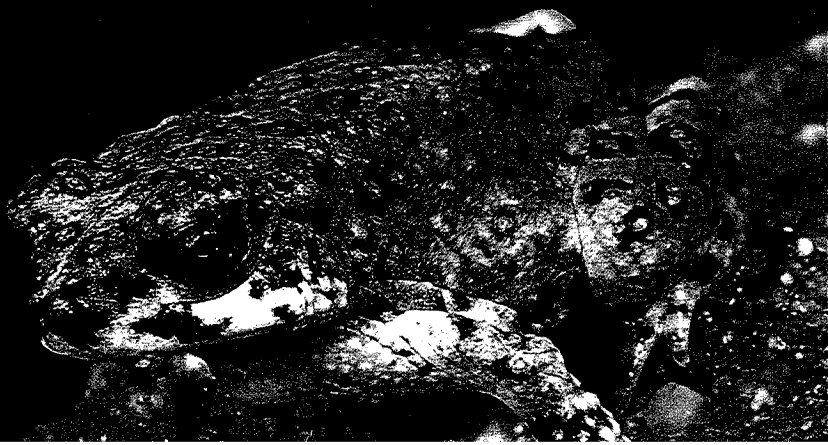


A Natural History of

Amphibians

Robert C. Stebbins and

Nathan W. Cohen



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*Robert C. Stebbins and
Nathan W. Cohen*

Illustrated by the Authors

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were negative in Sierra and Sequoia National Forests. In Stanislaus County, he noted stream channel damage from overgrazing and a recent burn; a small population at Rose Creek was threatened by silting from gold-mining activities.

Drost and Fellers (1993) failed to find this species in 1992 in rechecking historic sites recorded by Grinnell and Storer (1924), and they were unable to find it anywhere in the southern Sierra. Field work in 1993 (Fellers, 1994) yielded only one subadult frog south of Calaveras County. The survey covered 310 sites in the southern Sierran foothills within the frog's known range.

The species has been hard hit in the Los Padres National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains. Severe winter flooding occurred in Southern California during the winter of 1968–69. However, G. Fellers (summer 1993) found this species common along the north coast of California.

Fellers (1994) reports healthy, reproducing populations in essentially all perennial streams of the Diablo Range with suitable habitat in Alameda, western Stanislaus, Santa Clara, San Benito, and western Fresno Counties. The species, however, was not found in Pinnacles National Monument.

Oregon

Little appears to be known about the present status of this species in Oregon. St. John found the frog in the Umpqua River drainage in 1985 and it was widespread along streams in Jackson and Josephine counties in 1984. It was common along streams in Curry County in 1982 (see St. John, 1982–86).

This species is classified as a category 2 species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (potential candidate for listing but more information needed).

TARAHUMARA FROG (*Rana tarahumarae*) (s Ariz, Mex)

Arizona (Clarkson and Rorabaugh 1989)

This frog apparently has been eliminated recently from the U.S. at certain headwater springs and streams of the Rio Altar and Santa Cruz drainages and from some localities in northern Sonora, Mexico. Pollution from copper mining may have been a factor in the U.S. The frogs have shown signs of heavy-metal poisoning, but other impacts have also probably contributed to its disappearance.

RED-LEGGED FROG (*Rana aurora*) (BC to n Baja Cal)

California Red-legged Frog (R. a. draytonii) (Fig. 20.10)

This frog has disappeared from sizable portions of its historic range (discussed by Hayes and Jennings, 1988), including all historic sites on the floor of the Great Valley. It appears to have been nearly eliminated from the Sierran foot-

National Forests. In Stanislaus County, overgrazing and a recent burn; a threatened by silting from gold-mining

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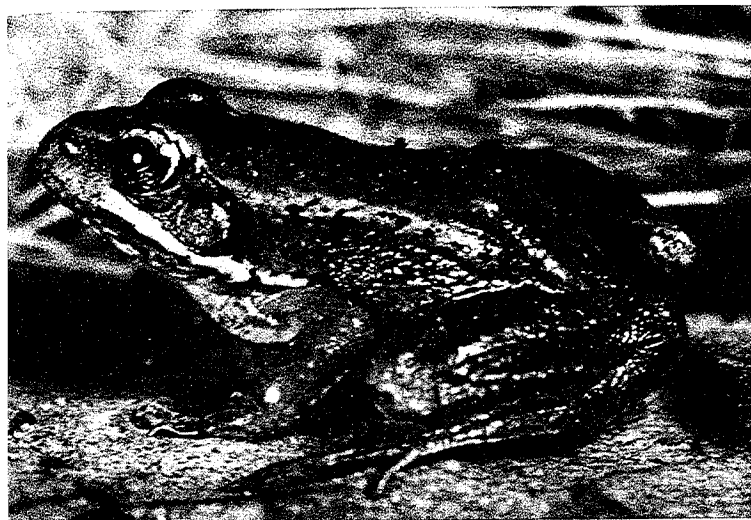


Fig. 20.10 California Red-legged Frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*).

hills from El Dorado National Forest to Sequoia National Park (Martin, 1992, and pers. comm.). No eggs, larvae, or adults were found by Martin during a standardized survey of the national forest lands in 1992 and 1993 (see Western Toad account for details). The surveys included all historic sites (twelve). Scattered populations still exist north of El Dorado National Forest in Tahoe and Plumas National Forest.

Drost and Fellers (1993) failed to find the species in 1992 at the two sites reported by Grinnell and Storer (1924) in their survey of the Yosemite region, but found the species at an artificial pond along Cunes Creek near Coulterville. However, no tadpoles or transformed frogs have been found in subsequent searches.

Populations still exist in eastern Contra Costa and Alameda Counties and at Pinnacles National Monument (Fellers, 1994). In the Coast Range, north of Ventura County, scattered populations still exist in small coastal streams and tributaries where there are no Bullfrogs (S. Sweet, pers. comm.).

The frog appears to be extinct in most of Southern California, south of the Santa Clara River. A small population exists on the Santa Rosa Plateau of southwestern Riverside County, protected by a Nature Conservancy preserve. In the 1960s, it was considered the most common true frog in San Diego County (Sloan, 1964); now it appears to be extinct.

A survey (summer, 1993) by G. Fellers revealed the species to be still quite abundant in appropriate habitat along the coast from Crescent City to Point Reyes National Seashore. The California Red-legged Frog was exploited as a food source during the 1800s and early 1900s. Introduction of predatory fish