

Great Blue Heron and the Bull Frog

Last Sunday (July 14th) after having breakfast in Kelseyville my wife and I decided to take a drive through the state park and see what we could see. As we approached the footbridge crossing Kelsey Slough near the swim beach we spotted this adult Great Blue Heron hunting the Water Primrose in the channel. I photographed the heron as he made his initial strike and grabbed this large bullfrog and for the next 13 minutes while he tenderized the frog and finally maneuvered him for his head first trip down the heron's throat. I took over 300 photos of the event and followed the heron as he flew up and down the channel with the frog dangling from his beak. During the entire ordeal the Bull Frog never struggled. Throughout the 13 minute episode the key issue seemed to be kill, position and swallow.

Neither my wife nor I had ever seen a Great Blue Heron take a Bull Frog of this size. Hopefully you too will enjoy this photo.

