

# Turnin' Frogs Into Toads!

BY  
BOBBY  
BARRACK



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Ribbitt"... "Ribbitt" or "Tweet"... "Tweet", which is it? Why do bass eat a frog? Do they think it's a small bird, live frog or some sort of a rodent? I believe that the answer is "YES". A perfectly placed frog could imitate all of the prior mentioned forage. I have come to the conclusion that a "real" frog is probably the least preferred forage of the largemouth bass. However, bass will still scoop a few, if it's convenient for them. My thinking on this subject has changed 180 degrees since 1990. I used to spend days on end looking for patches of moss throughout the delta that had a population of bullfrogs using it. I conditioned myself into believing that these were the only productive patches on the river. During May and June, the juvenile frogs would start showing up and my confidence would skyrocket. This was a pretty cool program until I started to take a GOOD look at what was REALLY going on around me.

From late spring through August, I noticed that if I shifted my focus to small birds, my frogfish got bigger! Sparrows, Swallows, baby ducks and blackbirds started to become very interesting to me. Shallow coves and or bays would begin growing canopies of moss or "cheese". This would become a perfect place for momma duck to raise her young. Small snails, shrimp and insects that accumulate in, around, under and on top of the moss creates a feeding haven for small birds. Big Largemouth are well aware of this. Through

the years I've witnessed over a dozen "assassinations" of baby ducks and blackbirds by big largemouth exploding through the cheese.

In 1996, my team partner Gregg Bryant said, "turn the boat around.... A big bass just tried to eat one of those ducks over there!" I turned the boat in the direction that Gregg had pointed. Gregg threw his frog to a "basketball" size hole in the moss, which was about 15 yards to the left of the momma duck and her 9 ducklings. I said, "you missed". Gregg replied, as he stayed focused on his frog, "no I didn't!" Gregg twitched his frog three times and, "WOOSH!!!!" Gregg began to yell as he was winding this big pig to the net. "I told you she tried to eat that duck!" The fish weighed 7 3/4 pounds and was big fish of that tournament.

In the early 2000's Scott Green came up with the "Tweety" color for Snagproof. Scott created this color because he had a 9 lb. bass cough up a yellow headed black bird while fishing at Clear Lake. I have used this color in California, Alabama, Arkansas, Washington and Texas and it catches real nice fish in all these locations.

If moss isn't available; target shade! During the morning hours a frog can be worked as if it's a Zara Spook next to heavy cover. With a frog, an angler can make tighter throws with minimal hang-ups. As the sun comes up, the frog can be thrown to small shade pockets or walked along the sides of docks. Be aware of nesting Swallows or Sparrows. They usually build their mud huts on the undersides of piers, docks or gangplanks.

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