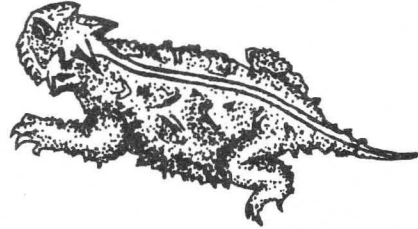


KANSAS
HERPETOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER



Number 21

October 1977

KHS FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING IN EMPORIA

The fourth annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society will be held in Room 72 of the Science Hall at Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, on Saturday, 19 November 1978. Meeting coordinators will be KHS President Robert Clarke and KHS member James L. Knight, both of Emporia State University. Acting KHS chairperson J. T. Collins has scheduled the following agenda:

- 9:30 am KHS Executive Council Meeting, R. F. Clarke presiding.
- 10:30 am Pre-meeting social (coffee and donuts will be served)
- 11:00 am Guest speaker: Jaime Pefaur, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas. Topic: Amphibians and reptiles of Arequipa, Peru.
- 11:45 am LUNCH BREAK
- 1:00 pm KHS Business meeting and election of officers for 1978.
- 2:00 pm Guest speaker: James L. Knight, Division of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University. Topic: The herpetofauna of Cheyenne County, Kansas.
- 2:45 pm Coffee break
- 3:00 pm Guest speaker: Marty Capron, Oxford, Kansas. Topic: Herpetological collecting in Costa Rica.
- 3:45 pm SLIDE SHOW -- everyone bring your 10 best color slides of amphibians and reptiles, show them, and talk about them.
- 4:45 pm Meeting adjourns?

This is a good program. All KHS members should plan to attend and bring friends. If you so desire, KHS Secretary-Treasurer Margorie Perry will accept your 1978 dues at the meeting. Let's make this the biggest KHS meeting in history.

KHS OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 1978

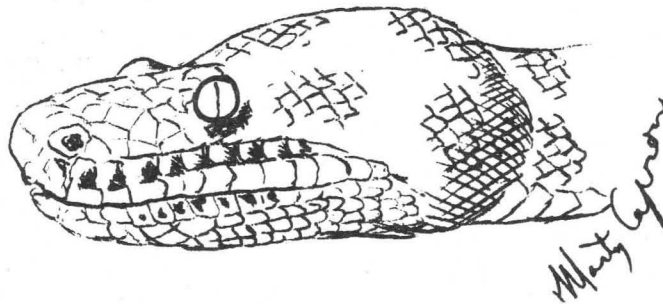
The KHS nominating committee, composed of Rose Etta Kurtz, Janice Perry, Andrea Stammer and J. T. Collins, have selected the following nominees for 1978 KHS office:

For PRESIDENT-ELECT: Kelly Irwin (Topeka)
George Pisani (Lawrence)

For SECRETARY-TREASURER: Margorie Perry (Lawrence)

Kansas Herpetological Society Newsletter

Larry Miller (Caldwell) has served as President-elect for 1977, and automatically assumes the office of KHS President for 1978. Robert F. Clarke (Emporia), our current KHS President will continue to serve on the KHS Executive Council for 1978 as Past President. The KHS Newsletter Editor is appointed for the coming year by the KHS Executive Council. All KHS members are urged to attend the fourth annual meeting of the Society at Emporia, Kansas in November to vote their preference.



KHS HOLBROOK CONTEST STARTS WITH NEXT NEWSLETTER

The KHS has received a gratis copy of the SSAR Holbrook facsimile reprint in recognition of its financial support to the SSAR in reprinting this most important work on North American amphibians and reptiles.

Since the KHS does not maintain a Society library, the KHS Executive Council decided at the Ottawa County meeting on 9 July 1977 to initiate a contest to award the Holbrook facsimile to the winning KHS member. Contest rules are:

- 1) All participants must be KHS members.
- 2) No elected KHS officers for 1977 or 1978 may participate.
- 3) No member of the judging committee may participate.
- 4) A winner will be selected from among those KHS members publishing the most original paper on Kansas amphibians and/or reptiles appearing in the KHS Newsletter. The contest is restricted to articles appearing in KHS Newsletters 22 (December 1977) through 27 (October 1978).
- 5) The Holbrook facsimile will be awarded to the winner at the 5th annual KHS meeting in November 1978.
- 6) A second prize of selected Holbrook color plates will be awarded to the second place entrant.
- 7) A third place entrant will receive a free KHS membership for calendar year 1979.


The KHS Executive Council has appointed Janice Perry, Larry Miller, and Joseph Collins to serve as the judging committee for this contest.

KHS MEMBERS ACHIEVE GOAL--


GET COTTONMOUTH

On 9 September 1977, over thirty five enthusiastic members of the Kansas Herpetological Society gathered at Montgomery County State Lake in preparation for "the big hunt." Peter Gray and his friend Mike, who had been camped out since Thursday evening, had the first animals for everyone's checklist -- Cope's gray treefrog (*Hyla chrysocelis*), a new hatchling eastern collared lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris collaris*), an adult black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*), many leopard frogs (*Rana pipiens* complex), and Blanchard's cricket frogs (*Acris crepitans blanchardi*). The lake had many advantages as a meeting site: it was a very pretty, quiet little lake, it had very few other campers around it, and it provided excellent swimming, as Andrea and Chris Stammner, and Shelley Skie demonstrated (although it was rather cool to be clothed in nothing but a swimsuit). The group stayed up until past midnight warming themselves by the fire, and waiting for the last few KHS stragglers to come wandering into camp.

The next morning, after breakfast had been made and eaten, the convoy followed J.D. Jennings, who headed to a place north-north-east of Coffeyville on the Verdigris River. This was the site where J.D. had captured a number of western cottonmouths (*Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma*) earlier this year. Seemingly thousands of Blanchard's cricket frogs and two northern water snakes (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*) were found, but no *Agkistrodon p. leucostoma*. This site is a wonderful place for any type critter. The shores of the river are lined with many broken bricks and blocks which provide an infinite number of places for animals to hide, and for herpetologists to flip rocks and debris. After an hour or two of fruitless searching, and in dire need of refreshments and food, the crew headed for Coffeyville to eat at the local fish & chips & grease restaurant. After refueling, the group left the grease joint



KANSAS
HERPETOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
FIELD CHECKLIST
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN KANSAS
(REVISED AUGUST 1977)



DATE 9-11 September 1977 COUNTY Montgomery
 LOCALITY Montgomery County State Lake and environs
 OBSERVERS numerous KHS members
 TOTAL SPECIES OBSERVED 27 TOTAL INDIVIDUALS OBSERVED ca. 55+

<p>SALAMANDERS:</p> <p>--- HELLBENDER</p> <p>--- SMALL-MOUTHED SALAMANDER</p> <p>--- EASTERN TIGER SALAMANDER</p> <p>--- BARRED TIGER SALAMANDER</p> <p>--- CENTRAL NWT</p> <p>--- DARK-SIDED SALAMANDER</p> <p>--- CAVE SALAMANDER</p> <p>--- GRAY-BELLIED SALAMANDER</p> <p>--- GROTTO SALAMANDER</p> <p>--- MUDPOPPY</p> <p>--- RED RIVER WATERDOG</p> <p>FROGS AND TOADS:</p> <p>2 PLAINS SPADEFOOT TOAD</p> <p>--- AMERICAN TOAD</p> <p>--- GREAT PLAINS TOAD</p> <p>--- WESTERN GREEN TOAD</p> <p>--- RED-SPOTTED TOAD</p> <p>--- ROCKY MOUNTAIN TOAD</p> <p>--- BLANCHARD'S CRICKET FROG</p> <p>--- SPOTTED CHORUS FROG</p> <p>--- WESTERN CHORUS FROG</p> <p>1 COPE'S GRAY TREEFROG</p> <p>--- NORTHERN SPRING PEEPER</p> <p>--- NORTHERN CRAWFISH FROG</p> <p>1 BULLFROG</p> <p>--- NORTHERN GREEN FROG</p> <p>--- PICKEREL FROG</p> <p>3 PLAINS LEOPARD FROG</p> <p>--- EASTERN NARROW-MOUTHED FROG</p> <p>2 PLAINS NARROW-MOUTHED FROG</p> <p>TURTLES:</p> <p>1 NORTHERN SHAPPING TURTLE</p> <p>--- ALLIGATOR SHAPPING TURTLE</p> <p>3 STINKPOT</p>	<p>PLAINS YELLOW MTD TURTLE</p> <p>2 THREE-TOED BOX TURTLE</p> <p>1 EASTERN ORNATE BOX TURTLE</p> <p>--- MAP TURTLE</p> <p>--- MISSISSIPPI MAP TURTLE</p> <p>--- FALSE MAP TURTLE</p> <p>--- MISSOURI SLIDER</p> <p>--- WESTERN PAINTED TURTLE</p> <p>--- RED-EARED TURTLE</p> <p>--- MIDLAND SMOOTH SOFTSHELL</p> <p>1 WESTERN SPINY SOFTSHELL</p> <p>LIZARDS:</p> <p>--- EASTERN EARLESS LIZARD</p> <p>--- NORTHERN EARLESS LIZARD</p> <p>5 EASTERN COLLARED LIZARD</p> <p>--- NORTHERN FENCE LIZARD</p> <p>--- NORTHERN PRAIRIE LIZARD</p> <p>--- TEXAS HORNED LIZARD</p> <p>1 GARDNO SKINK</p> <p>--- SOUTHERN COAL SKINK</p> <p>1 FIVE-LINED SKINK</p> <p>--- BROAD-HEADED SKINK</p> <p>--- GREAT PLAINS SKINK</p> <p>--- NORTHERN PRAIRIE SKINK</p> <p>--- SOUTHERN PRAIRIE SKINK (**)</p> <p>4 PRAIRIE-LINED RACERUNNER</p> <p>--- WESTERN SLENDER GLASS LIZARD</p> <p>SNAKES:</p> <p>--- NEW MEXICO BLIND SNAKE</p> <p>1 WESTERN WORM SNAKE</p> <p>3 PRAIRIE RINGNECK SNAKE</p> <p>--- PLAINS HOGNOSE SNAKE</p> <p>--- DUSTY HOGNOSE SNAKE</p> <p>2 EASTERN HOGNOSE SNAKE</p> <p>2 ROUGH GREEN SNAKE</p>	<p>WESTERN SMOOTH GREEN SNAKE</p> <p>2 EASTERN YELLOW-BELLIED RACER</p> <p>--- EASTERN COACHWIP</p> <p>--- WESTERN COACHWIP</p> <p>--- GREAT PLAINS RAT SNAKE</p> <p>4 BLACK RAT SNAKE</p> <p>--- BULLSNAKE</p> <p>--- TEXAS GLOSSY SNAKE</p> <p>--- TEXAS NIGHT SNAKE</p> <p>1 PRAIRIE KINGSNAKE</p> <p>1 SPECKLED KINGSNAKE</p> <p>--- RED MILK SNAKE</p> <p>--- WESTERN MILK SNAKE</p> <p>--- PALLID MILK SNAKE (*)</p> <p>--- TEXAS LONG-NOSED SNAKE</p> <p>--- GREAT PLAINS GRAYNOSED SNAKE</p> <p>--- FLAT-HEADED SNAKE</p> <p>--- PLAINS BLACK-HEADED SNAKE</p> <p>--- TEXAS NIGHT SNAKE</p> <p>2 CHECKERED GARTER SNAKE</p> <p>2 WESTERN RIBBON SNAKE</p> <p>--- PECOS RIBBON SNAKE (*)</p> <p>1 WESTERN PLAINS GARTER SNAKE</p> <p>1 RED-SIDED GARTER SNAKE</p> <p>--- LINED SNAKE</p> <p>--- ROUGH EARTH SNAKE</p> <p>--- WESTERN SMOOTH EARTH SNAKE</p> <p>--- TEXAS BROWN SNAKE</p> <p>--- NORTHERN RED-BELLIED SNAKE</p> <p>--- GRAHAM'S CRAYFISH SNAKE</p> <p>4 BLOTCHED WATERSNAKE</p> <p>--- DIAMOND-BACKED WATERSNAKE</p> <p>4 NORTHERN WATERSNAKE</p> <p>2 OSAGE COPPERHEAD</p> <p>--- BROAD-BANDED COPPERHEAD (*)</p> <p>--- WESTERN MASSASAUGA</p> <p>--- DESERT MASSASAUGA (*)</p> <p>--- TIMBER RATTLESNAKE</p> <p>--- PRAIRIE RATTLESNAKE</p>
---	--	--

NOTES

USE THIS SPACE TO RECORD DETAILS OF SPECIES OBSERVED. THIS MIGHT INCLUDE TEMPERATURE, TIME OF DAY, COLOR NOTES, VOICE, HABITAT, VEGETATION, NESTING ACTIVITIES, BEHAVIOR, EGG CLUTCHES DISCOVERED, FOOD, ETC.

*In addition, Kelly Irwin and J.D. Jennings collected a western cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma*) in the Verdigris River near Coffeyville. This is the fourth voucher specimen from Kansas. The specimen was given to J.T. Collins -- it will be placed in the KU Museum of Natural History live snake exhibit.*

J.T. Collins

to return to camp for the KHS Executive Council meeting, and the erection, by J. T. Collins, of Melissa Burt's difficult tent.

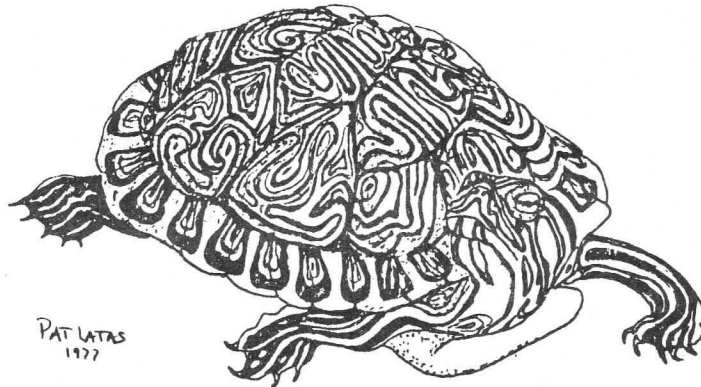
When early evening arrived, all eager swamp-stompers left to go wading through swamps and backwaters in the area. Marge Perry and Melissa Burt, thrilled with swamp-stomping, dunked themselves from shoulders to toe in swamp muck. Swamp-stomping initially failed to turn up an Agkistrodon p. leucostoma. Returning to the original Verdigris River hunting spot of earlier in the day, the herpers hunted, and hunted, and hunted ... Finally giving up, they were about to leave, except someone noticed that J.D. Jennings and Kelly Irwin were missing (how could we ever leave without Kelly and J.D.?). A search for the two lost members turned them up complete with one western cottonmouth! It was found under a rock (heaven knows how they ever picked THAT rock with hundreds of other rocks lying around the area), along the shore in a rather quiet part of the river above a dam. This animal is now on exhibit at the KU Museum of Natural History in Lawrence. No more Agkistrodon p. leucostoma were found despite a thorough search of the capture site and a nearby pond in the area. Content that at least one valuable animal had been captured, the crew returned to camp and the warmth of the campfire, where they celebrated until the wee hours.

Early the next morning, thunder, lightning, and rain, rain, rain greeted the campers. Everything was soaked (except for my mother and I inside the warm environs of her Aspen stationwagon). The storm had begun at about 6:00 am, and at around 9:00 am it looked as though it would never quit. Our campsite was beginning to look like a wading pool for infants. Lots of scurrying and quick packing of wet belongings took place, and most everyone left -- except Eric Rundquist, who slept soundly and comfortably(?) in the backseat of his car, oblivious to the world around him.

Among the items found on this rainy Sunday morning were: two wet snake hooks, one very wet pair of boots, one soaked pair of tennis shoes, one wet bundle of tent stakes and poles and one cold, wet watermelon. These items (minus the watermelon, which met an unfortunate end) will be on exhibit at the Annual Meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society in Emporia, Kansas on 19 November 1977.

A complete list of the reptiles and amphibians found on this trip can be obtained by reading the KHS checklist that accompanies this article.

---JANICE PERRY





From left to right -- First row: Ray E. Ashton (FlaHS), William Love (FlaHS), Kelly Irwin (KsHS), John Applegarth (New MexHS), Janice Perry (KsHS), Stanley Dyrkacz (ChicagoHS), Tom Vermersch (TexHS), Eugene Rankin (St. LouisHS). Second row: Herbert S. Harris (MdHS), Malvin Skaroff (PhilaHS & ESHL), Tom R. Johnson (SSAR & St. LouisHS), Eric Rundquist (KsHS), Michael Morton (OklaHS), Robert Bollinger (OklaHS), Randolph Krohmer (St. LouisHS), Scott Wheeler. Third row: Kraig Adler (SSAR Conference co-moderator), Robert F. Clarke (KsHS president-host regional society), Steve Garber (ConnHS), Veralynne Bosko (NOAH), Delfi Messinger (KsHS), Marjorie Perry (KsHS), Frank Slavens (Pacific NWHS), Carol Brubaker (DallasHS), Wayne Seifert (TexHS & DallasHS), Charles Radcliffe (ColoHS). Fourth row: Stan Roth (KsHS), Greg Mengden (TexHS), James B. Murphy (SSAR Conference co-moderator), John Groves (MdHS), George Pisani (SSAR & KsHS), Martin J. Rosenberg (NOAH), Judy Black (OklaHS), David Barker (DallasHS), Hugh Quinn (TexHS). Fifth row: James L. Knight (KsHS), Shelley Skie (KsHS), Larry Miller (KsHS), Joseph Laszlo (TexHS). Sixth row: John Zegel (GaHS), Robert Clark (KsHS), Frank Godwin (GaHS), J. T. Collins (SSAR Conference co-ordinator), Max A. Nickerson (SSAR & WisCHS), James Glenn (UtahHL), Peter Black (OklaHS), Andrew Black (OklaHS).

PARTICIPANTS - FIRST SSAR REGIONAL HERP SOCIETY CONFERENCE



"KHS Members Dave Grow, Tom Johnson, Jan Caldwell and Kraig Adler enjoying themselves at the SSAR picnic."



"KHS Member Kelly Irwin showing snake at KHS live herp exhibit display during the SSAR-HL meeting in Lawrence."

Publications: newsletters or scientific bulletins? Stanley Dyrkacz (Chicago Herpetological Society)
Conservation and education programs for regional societies. Tom R. Johnson (St. Louis Herpetological Society and SSAR)
How to increase income. Marge Perry (Kansas Herpetological Society)

Conservation and Care of Captive Animals

Topics: Live collecting and impact on critical habitats. Michael Williamson (New Mexico Herpetological Society)
Promotion of conservation for herp fanciers. Jeffrey H. Black (Oklahoma Herpetological Society)
Problems in maintenance of captive herps. James L. Glenn (Utah Herpetologists' League)

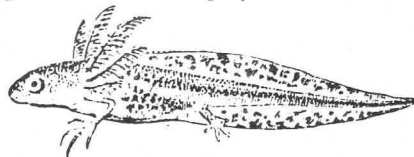
Cooperation Among Regional Societies

Topics: Exchange of information (publications, field data). Malvin L. Skaroff (Philadelphia Herpetological Society and Eastern Seaboard Herpetological League)
Cooperation for purposes of public education. Ray Ashton (Florida Herpetological Society)
Establishment of national league of regional societies or a national clearinghouse. Herbert S. Harris (Maryland Herpetological Society)

Cooperation Between Regional Societies and the SSAR

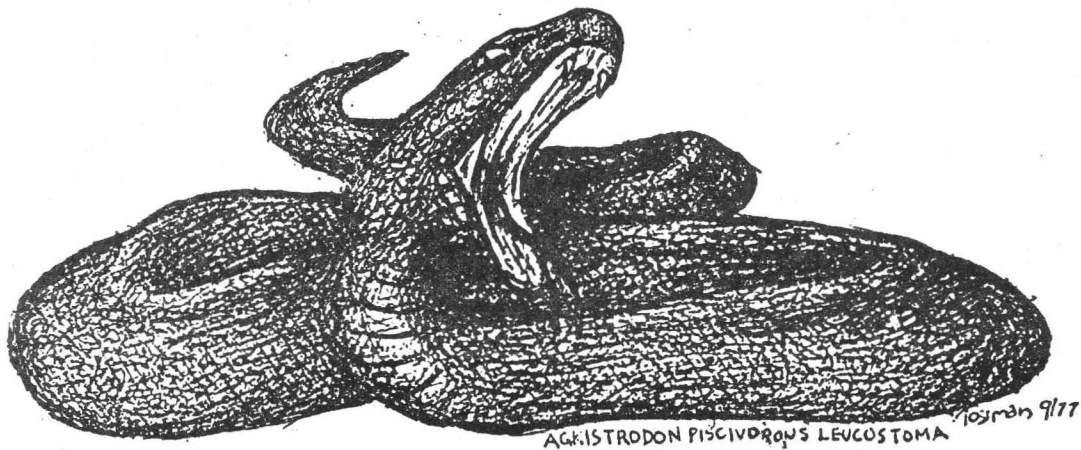
Topic: Benefits, present and potential, through societal cooperation. James B. Murphy (SSAR)

At an informal discussion period after the planned program, all persons present agreed that this conference had been extremely interesting and beneficial and it was decided that the 2nd annual conference should be held next year in conjunction with the SSAR meeting to be held in Tempe, Arizona. There was much discussion about present societies organizing at a national or regional level but the participants at this meeting rejected this idea. There was also discussion about publishing all articles in a national bulletin rather than in the local bulletins or newsletters. It was felt that local newsletters were the best medium to publish local writers. During the discussion on the idea of having a national clearinghouse which would make articles more readily available, it was noted that the Smithsonian Institution keeps all regional society publications.



KHS members participating in this event felt that the experience was rewarding and that KHS should benefit from this conference. We now need to plan for the 2nd conference and decide how KHS should stand on various issues.

---MARJORIE PERRY



FIRST STRECKER'S CHORUS FROGS COLLECTED IN KANSAS

On 30 April 1977, Peter Gray, Ed Byrne, Dave Grow, and myself collected four Strecker's chorus frogs, Pseudacris s. streckeri, near Anthony in Harper County, Kansas. Anthony is twelve miles north of the Oklahoma state line. This represents the first record of this species from Kansas, although they have been collected in several Oklahoma counties which adjoin the southern Kansas border.

The collecting site was a small pond ca. 500 feet northeast of Bluff Creek, southwest of Anthony. The pond is just a short distance from the city power plant which consists of several large generators and numerous houses. In fact, there are houses within 300 feet of the pond and the generators create quite a bit of noise at this site.

There's a rather interesting story as to how the discovery of P. streckeri in Kansas came about. On 23 April my wife and I were out looking for herps west of Anthony. It was a cool night, too cold for snakes, so we were concentrating on frogs and toads. After driving the roads for

an hour or so, and stopping to listen at all likely-looking creeks and ponds without any luck, we decided to head back to Anthony. On an impulse, I decided to stop one last place to listen--that being the bridge over Bluff Creek due west of town. To our surprise we heard Bufo's calling but decided to first try the bridge two miles south of there as it would offer more privacy and I knew the area better. We heard Bufos calling here also, so we got out to explore the area. At first we heard only Bufos and cricket frogs and the descending whinney of a screech owl somewhere upstream. Then, as we walked downstream a way, we heard a strange bell-like call in the distance. I didn't know what it was but thought it was something different so I recorded it. We tried locating them but every time we would advance upon them they would stop calling. Because of this and because the night air was growing increasingly cold, we reluctantly decided to give up the chase and come back on a better night.

Later in Wichita, at the herpetarium, I was playing the tape for herp keeper Ed Byrne and he immediately said he thought they were spring peepers, Hyla crucifer. Ed is from Burlington, Iowa where peepers are common. Of course we were wondering how they managed to get so far from their normal range and habitat, extreme eastern Kansas being the closet. After talking it over with herpetarium supervisor, Dave Grow, and looking up the ranges and calls of various species we decided they had to be P. streckeri. We arrived at that conclusion because P. streckeri has a call very similar to H. crucifer and its range comes close to the Kansas border in south central Kansas. The ornate chorus frog, Pseudacris ornata, also has a similar call but its range is far removed from Kansas.

On the next convenient night, exactly one week from when I first located them, we all (including herp keeper Peter Gray) ventured forth to Anthony for a try at a new herp for Kansas. We would have gone sooner but were hampered by heavy rains.

We arrived at the bridge over Bluff Creek at 10:00 pm and could hear our quarry calling faintly in the background along with several other species. After a walk of about three-fourths of a mile we discovered we were on the wrong side of the creek and had to cross a rather long railroad bridge as the creek was too deep to forge on foot without getting soaked. When we finally located the pond we also discovered a road within a few hundred feet of it that we could have taken. The reason we didn't was that the week before the frog had been calling further upstream so I naturally thought the bridge would be the most accessible place to locate them. Eric Rundquist, who visited the collecting site about 2 weeks later, said he also heard them calling from another location but they were also calling at the pond.

None of the P. streckeri that we found that night were directly in the water. Some were calling from low grassy damp areas, but most were higher up on the bank. Also calling at the pond were: Rocky Mountain toads, Bufo w. woodhousei; cricket frogs, Acris crepitans blanchardi; and leopard frogs,

Rana pipiens (complex), Great Plains toads, Bufo cognatus, were heard calling elsewhere, but not at the pond.

Two of the frogs are in the Kansas University collection (KU 174370 and 174371) and the other two were exhibited at the live herp display, put together by the KHS, at the SSAR-HL conference in Lawrence during early August.

---EDDIE STEGALL - Animal Keeper, Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita, Kansas.



A PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK HERPETOFAUNA.

The Park Service has published a wealth of popular information concerning endemic vertebrates in national parks throughout the United States. Due in part, perhaps, to its relatively sparse herpetofauna, a list of their amphibians and reptiles of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), has not been available. During the summer of 1977 the RMNP received countless visitors; no wilderness has ever been visited by so many people during such a brief period. Such a widely used natural area, designed for so many diverse recreational and research purposes, should have an available checklist of amphibians and reptiles. Having collected in the RMNP during summers since 1965, I have prepared this report based on my field notes, as well as the sparse pertinent literature.

It is interesting to note that although four amphibians and one reptile known to occur in the RMNP are reported here, a comparison of the herpetofauna nearby at the base of the east slope in Boulder, Colorado, shows a herpetofauna of eight amphibians and twenty-one reptiles (Maslin, 1964). Likewise, a comparison of most of Colorado where the habitats are much more diverse than those of Colorado where the habitats are much more diverse than those of the mountainous RMNP, yields a conservative estimate of amphibian and reptile species at fourteen and forty-two, respectively (Maslin, 1959).

Identity of species collected was facilitated by use of Stebbins (1954, 1966). For further literature on the RMNP herpetofauna refer to the bibliography. It should be kept in mind that the markedly depauperate herpetofauna of the RMNP is fine example of how the Rocky Mountains are an effective filter to amphibians and reptiles. Only those species that can extend their ranges into the high elevations are able to inhabit both sides of the continental divide. Because so few species can survive the seasonal extremes, their ranges are either restricted, disjunct, or connected via the southern, less montane, corridor.

The following is a preliminary list on the RMNP herpetofauna, with brief natural history notes.

Ambystoma tigrinum Tiger Salamander

I am familiar with one lake on the east side containing a neotenic population of this species. To my knowledge, this is the only population of this kind in the Park, though it is widespread in scattered regions of the Rockies, e.g. Gothic, Colorado, above 3,050 meters, Stebbins (1954) says it ranges in elevation "to over 3,350 meters in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado."

Bufo boreas Western Toad

This species is widespread throughout the park, and breeds in a great variety of aquatic situations. I have taken breeding specimens at elevations as high as 3,350 meters.

Pseudacris triseriata Chorus Frog

This species breeds in marshy habitats in the prairies as well as ponds above 3,350 meters. The subspecies found in the mountains is the boreal chorus frog, Pseudacris triseriata maculata.

Rana pipiens Leopard Frog

This species is part of a larger complex of frogs which range throughout most of the United States. In the RMNP it is found in wet habitats with Pseudacris triseriata, but does not appear to range into as many isolated, extremely high ponds as does the chorus frog.

Thamnophis elegans varans Wandering Garter Snake

This species is extremely widespread in distribution in the RMNP, ranging to an elevation exceeding 3,050 meters. It is most common around damp habitats, but will wander great distances from water.

I thank Lawrence Garber and Jane Sampson who provided valuable assistance in the field, and Janice Perry and Joseph Collins who carefully critized the final manuscript.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

This bibliography is an abridged list of known references to the herpetofauna of the Rocky Mountain National Park and surrounding environs.

- Beidleman, R. G. 1954. Unusual occurrence of the tiger salamander in north-central Colorado. *Copeia*, 1954(1):60-61.
- Blair, A. P. 1951. Note on the herpetology of the Elk Mountains, Colorado. *Copeia*, 1951(3):239-240.
- Burger, W. L. J. and A. N. Bragg. 1947. Notes on Bufo boreas (B. & G.) from the Gothic region of Colorado. *Proc. Okla. Acad. Sci.*, 27:61-65.
- Ellis, M. M. and S. Henderson. 1913. The amphibia and reptilia of Colorado, Part I. *Univ. Colorado Stud.* 10:39-129.
- _____. 1915. Amphibia and Reptilia of Colorado, Part II. *Univ. Colorado Stud.* 15:253-263.
- Hallowell, Edward. 1854. Reptiles, in Report of an expedition down the Zuni and Colorado Rivers by Capt. L. Sitgreaves. pp. 106-147.
- Jones-Burdick, W. H. 1939. Guide to the snakes of Colorado. *Univ. Colorado Museum. Boulder, Colo., Lflt. No. 1:1-12.*
- _____. 1949. Guide to the snakes of Colorado. *Univ. Colorado Museum. Boulder, Colo. Lflt. No. 5:1-23.*
- Levi, H. W. and L. R. Levi. 1955. Neotenic salamanders, Ambystoma tigrinum in the Elk Mountains of Colorado. *Copeia*, 1955(4):309.
- Lowe, C. H., Jr. 1955. A new species of whiptailed lizard (genus Cnemidophorus) from the Colorado Plateau of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. *Breviora*, 47:1-7.
- Maslin, T. P. 1947. Range extensions of three reptiles in Colorado. *Copeia*, 1947(2):138.
- _____. 1947. Guide to the lizards of Colorado. *Univ. Colorado Mus. Lflt. No. 3:1-14.*
- _____. 1947. Rana sylvatica cantabrigensis Baird in Colorado. *Copeia*, 1947(3):158-162.
- _____. 1950. Lizards of the genus Sceloporus in Colorado. *Jour. Colorado-Wyoming Acad. Sci.*, 4(2):81-82 (abstract).
- _____. 1950. Herpetological notes and records from Colorado. *Herpetologica*, 6:89-95.
- _____. 1953. The status of the whipsnake Masticophis flagellum (Shaw) in Colorado. *Herpetologica* 9:193-200.
-

Kansas Herpetological Society Newsletter

_____. 1956. Sceloporus undulatus erythrocephalus ssp. nov. (Reptilia, Iguanidae), from Colorado. Herpetologica, 12:291-294.

_____. 1957. Notes on the lizard Eumeces multivirgatus gaigeae in Colorado and Utah. Jour. Colorado-Wyoming Acad. Sci., 4:50 (abstract).

_____. 1957. Notes on the lizard Eumeces multivirgatus gaigeae from Colorado and Utah. Herpetologica, 13:87-90.

_____. 1959. An annotated check list of the amphibians and reptiles of Colorado. Univ. Colorado Stud., Ser. Biol., No. 6:1-98.

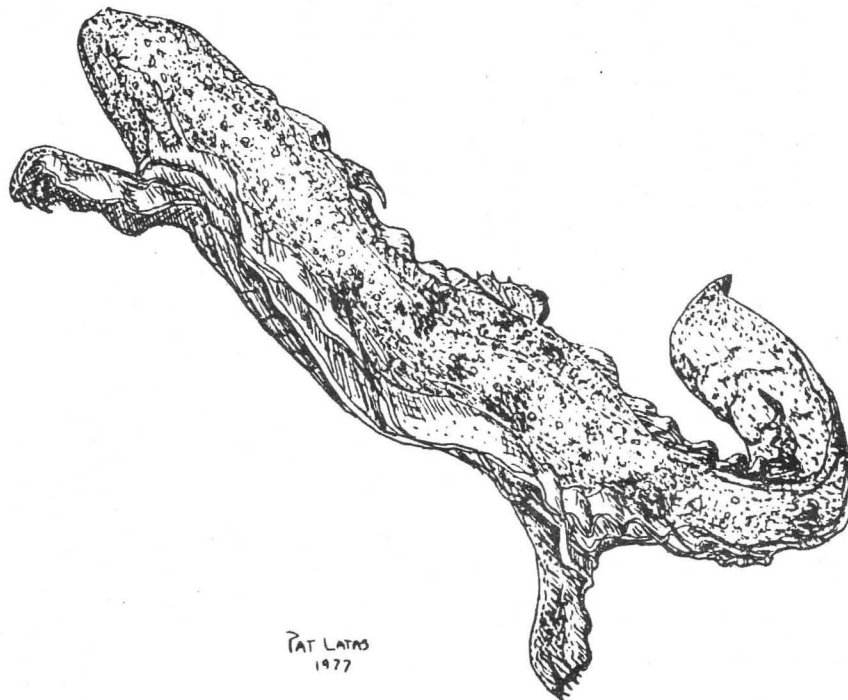
Maslin, T. Paul. 1964. Amphibians and reptiles of the Boulder area. Univ. Colorado Museum Lflt. No. 13:75-80.

Rosine, W. N. 1952. Notes on the occurrence of polydactylism in a second species of amphibian in Muskee Lake, Colorado. Journ. Colorado-Wyoming Acad. Sci., 4(4):100 (abstract).

Stebbins, Robert C. 1954. Amphibians and reptiles of western North America. McGraw-Hill Book Company. 536 pp.

_____. 1966. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 279 pp.

---STEVEN D. GARBER - Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045.



Facsimile reprint #2 by the Kansas Herpetological Society.
Reprinted from the Transactions of the Kansas Academy of
Science, volume 10, pp. 85-86. 1886.

NOTE ON A NEW VARIETY OF A SONORAN SERPENT FROM KANSAS.

BY F. W. CRAGIN, SC.D.

The specimen which serves as the basis of the following remarks is one of *Rhinochilus Lecontei*, B. & G., which was brought living to the writer in the summer of 1885, in Barber county, Kansas. It was taken by Master Chancy Smith, in a garden in the town of Medicine Lodge. It essentially agrees with the generic descriptions given by Baird and Girard, and Garman. The large rostral plate, while "not prominent above" as compared with that of *Heterodon*, is nevertheless seen to have a slight absolute elevation, when viewed tangentially to the upper surface of the muzzle; it is also somewhat prominent at the sides, and is well produced anteriorly. While much less sharply compressed and pointed than in *Heterodon*, its peculiar and on the whole prominent development seems to indicate a burrowing habit. It departs noticeably from descriptions of *R. Lecontei* in the relation of the upper labials to the orbit—a fact to which Prof. Cope called my attention before I had studied the specimen. The upper labials are, as usual, eight in number—the seventh largest—but the fifth alone enters the orbit, nor does the fourth very closely approach it, being crowded out by the upper part of the fifth, which is laterally much produced. There are nine lower labials, the fifth largest. The ventral scutellæ are 206; the subcaudal 54, of which the first 45, the 47th, and the 49th, are entire, the others bifid.

Baird and Girard's description of this species says, "Prefrontals large compared to the post-frontals." It would certainly seem that this must be a mistake. In any event, the Kansas specimen is like most other serpents in having the post-frontals emphatically large as compared with the prefrontals. The loreal plate is long and narrow. The orbitals and the number of rows of dorsal scales are as in other described specimens of this species.

The number of transverse-dorsal black bands considerably exceeds that hitherto seen in this species, being forty-five—the thirty-third opposite the anus. The snout and the dorsal surface between the black bands are bright red, the lateral flecks in those bands bright yellow. The ventral surface of the body is rather sparsely marked with more or less subquadrate black spots of various sizes.

The tail is relatively somewhat longer than is indicated by authors for *R. Lecontei*, being $\frac{7}{8}$ (or nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ instead of nearly $\frac{1}{3}$) of the total length.

This red and jet and golden reptile is, in life, one of the most beautiful serpents of North America. It might well be called the *Belle Snake*, in allusion to the elegance of its appointments. It is one of those brilliant faunal features so common in subtropical lands, and of which we see just the beginnings on the southern border of "sunny Kansas." The locality at which the specimen was found is not far from the isothermal line of 60°, which passes thence northwestward to the vicinity of Fort Wallace. The species, known only from the southwestern portion of its range (southern California) when first described, and later found at various localities to the southeast, east, and northeast, is here recorded from a locality which must represent nearly its extreme northeastern limit.

Previous to seeing this specimen, a snake which could hardly have been of other than this species was described to me as occurring a few miles west of Medicine Lodge. The species doubtless belongs also to the fauna of southern Colorado.

As this form is likely to prove but a variety of *R. Lecontei*, I will not venture to assign it a name, but will merely suggest that if it should at length appear that its distinctive characters are stable, it should be named after Prof. Cope, who is its true scientific discoverer.

CURRENT LITERATURE

This current literature section has been compiled by J. T. Collins, and contains titles of books and articles on amphibians and reptiles of possible interest to KHS members. Generally, titles listed here are those written by KHS members, those which contain direct reference to Kansas herpetofauna, or those of significance regarding North American amphibians and reptiles.

Ashton, R. E.

1977. The central newt, Notophthalmus viridescens louisianensis (Wolterstorff) in Kansas. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.*, 79(1-2): 15-19.

Bury, R. B., R. A. Luckenbach and S. D. Busack

1977. Effects of off-road vehicles on vertebrates in the California Desert. *USDI Fish and Wildlife Serv., Wildlife Res. Report*, 8:1-23.

Jaslow, A. P. and R. C. Vogt

1977. Identification and distribution of Hyla versicolor and Hyla chrysoscelis in Wisconsin. *Herpetologica*, 33(2):201-205.

Johnson, J. D.

1977. The taxonomy and distribution of the neotropical whipsnake Masticophis mentovarius (Reptilia, Serpentes, Colubridae). *Journ. Herp.*, 11(3):287-309.

Merkle, D. A., S. I. Guttman and M. A. Nickerson

1977. Genetic uniformity throughout the range of the hellbender, Cryptobranchus alleganiensis. *Copeia*, 1977(3):549-553.

Plummer, M. V.

1977. Observations on breeding migrations of Ambystoma texanum. *SSAR Herp. Review*, 8(3):79-80.

Plummer, M. V.

1977. Activity, habitat and population structure in the turtle, Trionyx muticus. *Copeia*, 1977(3):431-440.

Plummer, M. V.

1977. Reproduction and growth in the turtle, Trionyx muticus. *Copeia*, 1977(3):440-447.

---The Kansas Herpetological Society Newsletter is issued every other month by the Kansas Herpetological Society. All interested persons are invited to become members. Membership dues per calendar year are \$3.00 (Regular) or \$15.00 (Contributing) payable to: Margorie Perry, Secretary-Treasurer, 812 Murrow Court, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. All manuscripts and notes should be sent to the Editor. EDITOR: Janice Perry, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045. ASSOCIATE EDITORS: David Grow, Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 Zoo Boulevard, Wichita, Kansas 67212 and Rose Etta Kurtz, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045.