THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
2-3 NOVEMBER 1991
PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PROGRAM

Saturday, 2 November

8:30 am COFFEE & REGISTRATION outside of Science Lecture Hall (Room 21) of Pratt Community College. $1.00
Register fee. Bring a reusable mug-avoid styrofoam

9:30 am WELCOME, INTRODUCTION OF RHS OFFICERS, and ANNOUNCEMENTS by RHS President Larry Backerma.n

9:45 am Robert L. Ball (Wetmore USD 114) - Snakes of the Cimarron National GrasslandA Long Term Study.

10:00 am GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

10:15 am DISER - save atmosphere & amphibians, reuse your cup

10:40 am Jerry Hort (KS Dept Wildlife & Parks) - Updated Species Listing/RS Threatened, Endangered & SIRC.

11:00 am Ken Emerson (KS Dept Wildlife & Parks) - Survey of Kansas’ Attitudes Regarding Thoroughbred and Indigenered Wildlife - With Special Emphasis on Herps

11:25 am Larry Miller (Topexa) - Snobility + Firearms = Dead Reptiles.

11:45 pm LOUNCH Past Food to Hasta Cuisine (Including steam tables) available in Pratt - see local host members for directions and suggestions.

1:00 pm RHS BUSINESS MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1992, RHS President Larry Backerman presiding.

1:30 pm Ken Roos (Pittsburgh State Univ) - A Preliminary Survey of the Environmental Health of Riverine Vertebrates in Southeast Kansas.

2:00 pm **FEATUR SPEAKER**


2:45 pm Joseph T. Collins (University of Kansas) - The Revolution in Herpetology.

3:00 pm BREAK -- reuse your cups, avoid waste

3:30 pm David Bidds (Emporia State Univ) - Ecology of Aquatic Turtles in Southeast Kansas.

3:40 pm Paul Shipman & David Bidds (Emporia State Univ) - Behavior and Ecology of an Alligator Snapping Turtle in Kansas.

4:30 pm FREE-PER-ALL HERP SLIDE SHOW!! Bring your best 10 color slides and try to explain them.

5:30 pm DINNER -- on your own

7:00 pm SOCIAL AND RECEPTION -- Bring us your poor, tired, huddled masses of green backs and be prepared to spend an evening of fun and fund-raising at the Pratt Elks Lodge (1103 West 5th) -- see host members or map for directions. We have secured the serendipitous services and sharp-tongue (is it forked?) of Joe Collins, author, recentor nonniall, and just a nice guy to auction off the stuff you have so grudgingly donated. The KS Herp Society keeps membership dues so low based on the proceeds of this yearly event. When you get to the Elks, knock twice and tell 'em, "The sun set on...".

Sunday, 3 November

8:30 am COFFEE and REGISTRATION - Outside of Science Lecture Hall (Room 21) Pratt Community College-Recycle cups.

9:15 am Larry Backerman (KS Dept Wildlife & Parks) - New regulations and their impacts on herps in Kansas.

9:30 am Eric Rundquist (Sedgwick County Zoo) - Revolution of the Fossils of the Western Cornsmouth (Aptostichus pictus var Leucosoma) in Kansas.

10:10 am Karen Tempier (Eyes) - The 1991 RHS Fall Field Trip.

11:00 am AUCTION -- (Have a safe trip home and thanks)

Special Attractions:

*** Live alligator snapping turtle available for view ***

*** The KS Dept Wildlife & Parks Museum will be open Saturday and Sunday from 10am-5pm. Photos of live herps may be arranged - see host members for information***

***Bear Creek Canon herp trip -- Sunday afternoon - see Eric Rundquist or the sign-up sheet at the registration desk.***
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PRATT, KANSAS
1991 KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS
2-3 NOVEMBER 1991
PRATT, KANSAS

SNAKES OF THE CIMARRON NATIONAL GRASSLAND: A LONG TERM STUDY

by

Robert L. Ball
Brewster USD #314
Brewster, Kansas 67732

During the past six years, data were collected on the serpents of the Cimarron National Grassland. These data were compared with similar data gathered on the snakes of Texas County, Oklahoma. The two faunas were similar. However, there were many more prairie rattlesnakes and bullsnakes observed in the panhandle of Oklahoma. Three species, the Texas longnose snake, the Kansas glossy snake, and the western hognose snake, were observed frequently. A total of five observations, including two voucher specimens, of the common kingsnake were made in the Grasslands. A 3-inch specimen of the western hognose snake was discovered DOR and appears to be the largest observed to date. Fossil fuel development, grazing, and recreation were all observed to have negative impacts on the serpents and other faunal components of the grasslands.

SURVEY OF KANSANS' ATTITUDES REGARDING THREATENED AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON HERPS

by

Ken Brunson
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Route 1
Pratt, Kansas

During 1990, threatened and endangered species issues in Kansas gained prominent debate. Largely due to concerns over protecting reptiles, controversy over watershed lake development in southeast Kansas fueled debates and legislation. Partially because of these disputes, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks sponsored a survey of Kansas adults in the spring of 1991. The survey indicated overwhelming support for threatened and endangered species in Kansas and efforts to manage and protect them.

THE REVOLUTION IN HERPETOLOGY

by

Joseph T. Collins
Museum of Natural History
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

The application of principles of cladistics to systematic herpetology has had and will have a dramatic impact the understanding of herp species. The author will present an overview on the possible ramifications of this "revolution" and how it will affect understanding of current relationships of amphibians and reptiles in the United States.
ECOLOGY OF AQUATIC TURTLES IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS
by
David Edds
Division of Biological Sciences
Emporia State University
Emporia, Kansas 66801

We sampled aquatic turtle communities with 186 collections in 41 counties in southeast and south-central Kansas from April 1990 to September 1991 to investigate environmental correlates of turtle community structure, and incidence of turtle deformities. We captured 11 species, 33 county records for eight species, and new Kansas maximum size records for three species. We measured 32 environmental variables at each collection site. Amount of shade, total acidity, availability of basking areas, depth, current speed, and permanence of the water course were among the environmental factors most highly correlated with turtle community composition. Incidence of deformities was 10-14% in the Walnut and lower Arkansas compared to 6-7% in the Verdigris, Marais des Cygnes, and Neosho River drainages.

UPDATED SPECIES LISTING ON THE KANSAS THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SPECIES IN NEED OF CONSERVATION LIST
by
Jerry Horak
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
P. O. Box 1525
Emporia, Kansas 66801

The Kansas Nongame, Threatened, and Endangered species Act is 16 years old and, for the third time, the lists of endangered, threatened, and species-in-need-of-conservation (SINC) are being evaluated and updated. The evaluation process started in February of 1991 with selection of a seven-person task force. The task force established procedures for petitioning the addition or removal of a species, or the change of status of an existing species within the lists. The petition application was sent to approximately 180 groups or individuals. From these applications, six herps, six fish, 26 mussels, five insects, and six birds were petitioned. These species were then objectively evaluated with a numerical rating system. The evaluated herps were the Alligator Snapping Turtle, Common Map Turtle, Eastern Hognose Snake, Kansas Glossy Snake, Timber Rattlesnake, and Northern Crawfish Frog. All the information for each species was then subjectively evaluated by the task force.

THE CONSERVATION BIOLOGY OF THE AFRICAN GOLIATH FROG (CONRAUA GOLIATH)
by
Dr. Victor H. Hutchinson
Department of Biology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

The speaker will present aspects of his research into the reproductive biology and conservation status of Conraua goliath in West Africa. A videotape of the frog in its native habitat will also be presented.
A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF RIVERINE VERTEBRATES IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

by

Ken Koon
Department of Biology
Pittsburg State University
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762

The purpose of this project is to evaluate the incidence of anatomical abnormalities in riverine vertebrates and to attempt to establish a relationship between that incidence and the sources of environmental contamination. Potential sources of pollution occur in Labette Creek, Neosho River, and other streams in southeast Kansas. Criteria that made sites usable for the survey were: access, ability to seine, habitat for amphibians, and good turtle habitat. Reference sites were picked far enough away to avoid overlap of individuals. At each site, sampling consisted of seining fish and capturing and tagging frogs, turtles, and snakes. Data analysis includes species type and richness, abundance, and percent anomalies. We expect that the contaminated sites will have a higher abundance of anomalies and reduced species composition and abundance compared to reference sites.

STUPIDITY + FIREARMS = DEAD REPTILES

Larry Miller
920 Southwest 33rd Street
Topeka, Kansas 66611

On a trip to the Chikaskia River near Drury, Kansas during mid-August 1991, numerous dead reptiles were observed. All appeared to have been shot. Photographic documentation of these events was made and personal observations will be given and comments made.

REEVALUATION OF THE STATUS OF THE WESTERN COTTONMOUTH (AGKISTRODON PIS-CIVORUS LEUCOSTOMA) IN KANSAS

By

Eric M Rundquist
Department of Herpetology
Sedgwick County Zoo
5555 Zoo Boulevard
Wichita, Kansas 67212

The collection of two specimens of A. p. leucostoma in northeastern Cherokee County, Kansas during the late summer of 1991 forces a reevaluation of the taxon’s status in the state. An historical overview of the species in Kansas and comments on the two new specimens will be given.
BEHAVIOR AND ECOLOGY OF AN ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE IN KANSAS

by

Paul Shipman and David Edds
Division of Biological Sciences
Emporia State University
Emporia, Kansas 66801

We documented the behavior and ecology of an adult female Alligator Snapping Turtle, *Macrolemys temmincki*, captured in southeast Kansas. A biotelemetry study was initiated in June 1991 to study the turtle's habits and movement throughout the year. Prior to release, the specimen was weighed (24.7 kg), measured (50.8 cm carapace, straight-line maximum), aged (45 years), and radiographed (not gravid). A fecal sample contained remnants of muskrat and crayfish. The turtle was fitted with ultrasonic transmitters, released at the site of capture, then monitored by using a digital receiver. Microhabitat characteristics measured at each location site included cover, vegetation, amount of shade, depth, current speed, and substrate type. This specimen had also been captured, measured, tagged, and released in 1986. Its seven river-kilometer upstream movement in five years provides support for the upstream migration hypothesis for this species. Preliminary data from our study also indicate an upstream progression by this animal.

THE 1991 KHS FALL FIELD TRIP

by

Karen Toepfer
303 West 39th Street
Hays, Kansas 67601

Slides and a light-hearted, tongue-in-cheek presentation of 1991 Fall Field Trip to Linn County State lake will given.