Caldwell is Site for Fifth Annual KHS Meeting

The fifth annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society will be held at the CALDWELL COMMUNITY BUILDING located at First and Arapahoe Sts. in Caldwell, Kansas. The meeting will be Saturday, 18 November 1978. The agenda is as follows:

9:15 am  KHS Executive Council Meeting  
(ALL members are invited to attend)

10:30 am  Pre-meeting social  
(coffee and donuts will be served)

11:00 am  GUEST SPEAKER: Joseph T. Collins, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas. TOPIC: Rattlesnakes.

12:00 noon  LUNCH BREAK (good eating places within walking distance)

1:15 pm  KHS Business meeting  
Election of officers for 1979  
HOLBROOK FACSIMILE REPRINT AWARDED

2:00 pm  KHS group photograph (color)  
(site of the picture will be announced)

2:30 pm  First ever KHS AUCTION -- for details see article in this issue

3:30 pm  Another great KHS SLIDE SHOW -- bring your 10 best or most interesting slides

4:30 pm  Meeting adjourns.

ALL KHS MEMBERS should plan to attend. Bring friends (potential members) and lots of money to spend on the auction. This meeting will have something of interest for everyone. Also, you may pay your 1979 dues ($4.00) at the meeting. The photographs will be a high quality color enlargement and the cost will only be $3.00 with KHS getting all profits. SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER.
KHS OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 1979

The Kansas Herpetological Society nominating committee, composed of Kelly Irwin, James Knight, Eric Rundquist and Andrea Stammler, have selected the following nominees for 1979 KHS office:

For PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Peter Gray (Wichita)
Shelly Skie (Lawrence)

For SECRETARY-TREASURER:

Marjorie Perry (Lawrence)

Kelly Irwin (Topeka) has served as President-Elect for 1978, and automatically assumes the office of KHS President for 1979. Larry Miller (Caldwell) our current KHS President will continue to serve on the Executive Council for 1979 as Past-President. The KHS Newsletter Editor, Janice Perry (Lawrence), may be appointed for the coming year by the 1979 KHS Executive Council. All KHS members are urged to attend the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society at Caldwell, Kansas on 18 November 1978 to vote their preference.

KHS DUES HAVE BEEN RAISED

The KHS Executive Council voted on 9 September 1978 to raise the dues from $3.00 to $4.00 beginning with the 1979 incoming dues. This move was made as a result of the recommendations received by the board from the 1977 auditing committee. Keep this change in mind when you pay your 1979 dues. Membership envelopes will be included with this mailing for your convenience in returning your 1979 dues to the KHS Secretary-Treasurer.

FIRST KHS NON-ANIMAL AUCTION WILL BE HELD

At the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society the first KHS non-animal auction will be held. All items up for auction are donations from persons or institutions. If you have anything herp-related, that is not a herp itself, bring it along for the auction. KHS will receive all profits from the auction. Among the items already donated are: critter bags, snake hooks, Holbrook color plates, reprints, books, a complete set of past KHS Newsletters, slides of herps, and color pictures.

The success or failure of this auction will depend upon YOU! Bring lots of money to spend - there will be lots of good items! Also, don't forget to bring anything you have that could sell -- old snake bags, snake cages, duplicate books, etc. Let's make this first big money-making project a success.
KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES 9 SEPTEMBER 1978

Officers present: L. Miller, presiding, K. Irwin, J. Perry and M. Perry

Officers absent: R. Clarke

Members present: E. Rundquist and J. Collins

Treasurer reported: $127.20

Membership count: 177 members

Eric Rundquist, Chairperson of the Conservation/Legislation Committee, has prepared a report for the Kansas Fish and Game Commission on further consideration for the endangered species list.

Joseph Collins, Chairperson of the Membership Committee, has no organized plan. He suggests that persons getting new members could collect the dues themselves and send them to the treasurer. Also, initialing envelopes would give us a way of keeping track of who is getting the new members. Suggested selling donations or contributing members by telling what they could support.

It was voted that the dues should be raised to $4.00 for 1979.

Money making projects planned—a non-animal auction at the annual meeting in Caldwell, Kansas. Suggested items to sell: Holbrook prints, snake hooks, critter bags, reprints. A suggested minimum price should be set. No animals will be sold.

Larry Miller plans to take a group picture at the annual meeting and sell it for a KHS profit.

The question of our IRS standing and income tax returns was raised. (NOTE: Secretary-Treasurer checked and found out we are not required to file).

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Perry
KHS Secretary-Treasurer
HOWARD KAY GLOYD
1902-1978

After a long, difficult illness, Dr. Howard K. Gloyd, Professor Emeritus at the University of Arizona and Honorary member of the Kansas Herpetological Society, died of bone cancer on August 7, 1978, at the age of 76.

Dr. Gloyd was born February 12, 1902 in Desoto, Kansas. He attended Ottawa University, from which he was graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1924. He went on to teach at his alma mater until 1927, at which time he went to the University of Michigan to complete a Ph.D. He went to Chicago in 1936, and until 1958, served as Director of the Chicago Academy of Sciences. His career took him from Chicago to Tucson, Arizona, where he was affiliated with the University of Arizona, until his death.

His publications, which number approximately 100, reflect his broad interest in vertebrate zoology, with a particular emphasis on crotalid snakes. He did, however, publish on other vertebrate groups, particularly birds.

In 1940, he published The Rattlesnakes, Genera Sistrurus and Crotalus, A Study in Zoogeography and Evolution, his most famous and most sought-after publication, long out of print, and currently being reprinted by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.

At his death, he and Dr. Roger Conant, one of his closest and most trusted friends, were attempting to complete a monograph of the genus Agkistrodon, his major research interest for the last 15 years of his life.

Dr. Gloyd will be sorely missed by both his friends and those never fortunate enough to know him personally. Dr. Conant will finish Dr. Gloyd's Agkistrodon monograph, a fitting ending to Dr. Gloyd's distinguished, scholarly career.

---JAMES L. KNIGHT, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence

GROW TAKES POSITION IN OKLAHOMA

David Grow, KHS member from Wichita, has recently taken a position as Senior Animal Technician for the Herpetarium and Mini-aquarium at the Oklahoma City Zoo. Dave has been very active in the KHS during its entire existence. He has written numerous articles dealing with herpetological husbandry as well as being the featured speaker at several KHS meetings. Dave served faithfully as Associate Editor for the KHS Newsletter from June 1975 until December 1977. We will miss Dave's enthusiasm at meetings and field trips. CONGRATULATIONS on your new job in Oklahoma, Dave!!
KHS SUCCESSFUL AT MIAMI COUNTY STATE LAKE

On the pleasant weekend of 8-10 September 1978, over 25 persons gathered at the beautiful, secluded Miami County State Lake for a weekend of herp hunting and fun. With the lake being very secluded and hard to find, I took off early Friday afternoon to set up signs and be the welcoming committee for those KHS'ers yet to come. It was lucky for me that Dave Grow was not far behind, as my car decided upon a needed(?) rest break. After having my car towed to the nearest gas station, we waited at camp for the rest of the crew to stumble upon this nicely secluded campground. It wasn't long before Larry Miller and the Trott family arrived followed soon thereafter by Kelly Irwin and company. Eric Rundquist and Teddi McCullough arrived just in time to see Dave cook a gourmet chinese meal in his wok over the campfire. A little socializing was done in the evening before the group retired.

By the next morning more people had shown up. These people included: Joseph Collins, Marge Perry, Chris Stammler, Greg Goff, John Tollefson, Jim Knight, Alan Smits, and Keith McDonald (from Australia).

Many herps were found inbetween the many rest breaks on this beautiful Saturday. They consisted of: Hyla chrysoscelis (Cope's gray treefrog), Ambystoma texanum (Smallmouth salamander), Acris crepitans (Blanchard's cricket frog), Rana catesbeiana (Bullfrog), Rana blairi (Plains leopard frog), Terrapene c. triunguis (Three-toed box turtle), Terrapene o. ornata (Ornate box turtle), Chrysemys s. elegans (Red-eared slider), Eumeces sp. (Five-lined skink probably), Diadophis p. arnyi (Prairie ringneck snake), Thamnophis p. proximus (Western ribbon snake), Thamnophis s. parietalis (Red-sided garter snake), Aiphiostodon c. phaeaster (Osage copperhead), Carphophis vermis (Western worm snake), Lampropeltis t. sylphia (Red milk snake), Elaphe obsoleta (Black rat snake), Storeria dekayi (Brown snake), Nerodia e. transversa (Blotched water snake), Bufo americanus (American toad), Coluber constrictor (Eastern yellowbelly racer), and Leiolepis laterale (Ground skink).

Latter in the evening, after watching Dave prepare another meal in his wok, a number of cars went road cruising. Few animals were seen on the roads. After (and before) the arrival of the road cruisers back and camp, a great deal of socializing was done until early Sunday morning.

The hour of awakening on Sunday was later than usual for any eager herpetologists. But, since the day consisted mostly of packing cars, cleaning up camp and leaving it was plenty early enough for most of the crew. The field trip was quite successful—we did find a large number of species in Miami county. Everyone who attended had a very enjoyable time. I really hope to see even more people at the next KHS meeting—YES, KHS meetings and field trips can be fun!!

---JANICE PERRY
THE STATUS OF THE CHECKERED GARTER SNAKE IN KANSAS

The checkered garter snake (Thamnophis marcianus) is one of the rarest snakes in Kansas. Collins (1974) showed this species occurring only along the Kansas-Oklahoma border from Barber County, Kansas to the west. Webb (1970) shows the checkered garter snake occurring in the western half of Oklahoma with several records for counties bordering Kansas from Alfalfa County, Oklahoma to the west through the panhandle.

So few specimens of this snake had been collected before 1974 in Kansas, that little was known of its habits, habitat or food preference. Taylor (1929a, b) and Tihen (1937) had made the only habitat observations in Kansas. They found these snakes near lakes or springs in Morton and Meade counties. None of the snakes food habits had been recorded.

Since 1974, several new Thamnophis marcianus specimens have been collected from Kansas and from areas just south of the Kansas line in Oklahoma. Four of these specimens represent a range extention to the east. One specimen represents a new length record for the state.

On 10 May 1975, a large female was collected on Kansas highway Rt. 1, 28 kilometers south of Coldwater. The snake was found by R. E. Ashton, S. Roth and W. Bradley. The snake measured 846 mm. It represents a new length record for the state and a county record for Comanche County.

In July 1977, one of my science students, Mark Barett, collected a checkered garter snake eight kilometers south of Caldwell, Kansas in Grant County, Oklahoma. The snake was found during the afternoon hours and the temperature was around 30°C. I later observed another snake that appeared to be a checkered garter snake crossing a dirt road in this same area. This was about sundown during August 1977. The temperature at this time was also about 30°C.

On 11 September 1977, I collected a fresh road kill checkered garter snake from highway 81 just three kilometers east of Caldwell, Kansas in Sumner County. This specimen represented a county record for Sumner County and a range extention to the east. Conant (1975) shows this area to be at the eastern edge of the snakes range.

The snake collected on 11 September 1977 was in an area of Sumner County made up of mostly wheat fields. The land is flat with few rocks, and few trees. The only cover is a waterway, the roadside ditches and a small pasture. Water was standing in the ditches and some of the low places in the pasture. Numerous small frogs of the genus Acris and Pseudacris were near the water in the ditches.

While collecting near the Oklahoma line southwest of Caldwell with two of my science students, Marty Blevens and Eddie Roberts, on 10 May 1978, we collected another specimen of the checkered garter snake. This snake was found during the late afternoon and the air temperature was around 20°C.
This specimen was a young adult and was found in a pasture just a few hundred meters north of the Oklahoma line in Sumner County, Kansas. The habitat was grassland with standing water in several of the low areas. The depth of the water was only a few centimeters and the grass cover around the water was heavy. The snake was found about 150 meters from the nearest water. A number of small frogs and toads were observed around the water and also in the shorter grass farther away from the standing water. The pasture land where the snake was found was hilly. Several rocks could be found and the soil was red.

During July 1978, a checkered garter snake was collected south of Caldwell near Renfrow, Oklahoma in Grant County by Kevin Schmidt. This snake was found while Schmidt was disking a wheat field. The snake was not near water, but in the dry wheat stubble field.

On 23 September 1978, I collected an adult specimen of the checkered garter snake just north of the Oklahoma line in Barber County, Kansas. This snake was crossing a dirt road about 20 kilometers southwest of Hardtner, Kansas. This is in the Red Hills area of Kansas near the point where the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River enters Oklahoma. The snake was collected about half an hour before sundown and the temperature was about 25°C. It was a sunny afternoon with no wind. There was very little vegetation of any type near the area where the snake was found. No water was standing in the area, but the ground was moist. There had been heavy rains in the area a few days earlier.

After several thousand miles of driving and many miles of walking by myself and a number of my science students, I must conclude the checkered garter snake is indeed a very rare snake in Kansas. This species seems to exist in Kansas only near the Kansas-Oklahoma border from Sumner County, Kansas to the Colorado line, although it is rather common in the western half of Oklahoma.

I would agree with Platt (1974) and recommend the discontinued use of persistent pesticides in areas where the checkered garter snake does occur. The apparent small population of this snake in some areas of Kansas could surely be eliminated quite easily by pollution and/or the elimination of the snakes habitat.

Many questions about Thamnophis marcianus still remain unanswered in Kansas. Future studies should help answer some of these questions.

LITERATURE CITED


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.

Duellman, W. E.

Iverson, J. B.

Korky, J. K.

Metcalf, A. L. and E. Metcalf


WHAT NEXT?

More and more herpetologists are breeding snakes, and not just your everyday breeding. The vogue today seems to be toward freaks and albinos. I guess herpetologists wanted to improve on the original form somewhat. Not a bad idea in itself, as nature doesn't seem to provide enough of these elusive creatures on her own.

After everyone is satisfied with that, then we can move on to bigger and better things such as intergrades. Everyone on the block will want one for his/her own. New snakes such as the:

Sonora Mountain Milk Snake  
(Lampropeltis pyromelana triangulum kilgori),

Gray-banded Mountain Kingsnake  
(Lampropeltis mexicana pyromelana retesi),

Trans-Pecos Plains Ratsnake  
(Elaphe subocularis guttata emoryi), and

Banded Mottled Rock Rattler  
(Crotalus lepidus lepidus johnsoni)

Then what, you ask? Well, since we are just inventing things, let's take it one step further. Let's try for some hybrids. Now, I know it can be done. Just think what you could so, insemination is no problem, we just do it artificially, isn't that what we've been doing all along? We could have:

King Gopher Snake  
(Lampropeltis pituophis),

Long-nosed Coral Snake  
(Rhinocheilus micruroides),

Patched-ridged Nosed Snake  
(Salvadora willardi), and
Rosy Rubber Boa  
(Lichanura charina)

The possibilities are limitless. Too bad it would have to stop there. Or we could make them all albinos while we're at it, oh well, back to the old drawing board!!

---ROSIE KILGORE, 2936 W. St. Moritz, Phoenix, Arizona 85023

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THE TURTLES OF SUMMER COUNTY KANSAS

Summer County Kansas is located in the south central part of the state. The counties around it are: Harper, Sedgwick, Cowley, and Kingman counties in Kansas and Kay and Grant counties in Oklahoma.

A turtle is a reptile. There are eight known species found in Summer County and at least two other species might be found in the county. They are cold-blooded animals and that means their body temperature changes with their environment.

The Western Painted Turtle is one of the eight kinds of turtles found in the county. The color of its head and legs is green and yellow. It has red around the edge of the shell. The top of the shell is a green-brown color. The bottom of the shell is red with a weird design of yellow and black. The bottom is not hinged. This turtle's scientific name is Chrysemys picta belli.

The Yellow Mud Turtle is another kind of turtle found in the county. The top part of its shell is brown. There are yellow, brown and black squares on the bottom of the shell. The turtle has five claws on the front feet and four on the back. They get from eight to fourteen centimeters in shell length. The bottom shell does not close. The head has yellow on each side of the head. They have an unpleasant odor. Their scientific name is Kinosternon flavescens.

Red-eared Turtles are also found in Summer County. These turtles have a red stripe on each side of their head until they get rather old. The bottom of their shell is not hinged. Their head and legs are sort of green with yellow stripes. They like to live in muddy water with a mud bottom. The top of the shell is green with some black. The bottom of the shell is yellow with some green, black and brown. Their average length is from 12-20 centimeters. Their scientific name is Chrysemys scripta elegans.

The False Map Turtle was first found in Summer County in early 1976. Since then several have been found. They have a yellow spot behind their eyes. The top part of the shell is yellow-gray or brown. The bottom is yellow. There are spines on the back. The average length of the adult female is from 12-28 centimeters. The length of the male is only from 9-15 centimeters. The scientific name is Graptemys pseudogeographica.
There are two softshell turtles found in Sumner County. One is the Spiny Softshell and the other is the Smooth Softshell. Both are very strange looking reptiles.

The Spiny Softshell (Trionyx spiniferus hartwegi) is a large turtle that has a shell that bends easily. The average size for the female is from 18-45 centimeters. The average size for the male is from 12-18 centimeters. The top shell on this turtle is gray and the upper edge of the shell is spiny. The shell also has dark spots. The bottom shell is bright yellow. They have a pointed nose.

The largest Spiny Softshell ever found in Kansas comes from Sumner County. It was collected from the Chikaskia River by Ricky Ginn and Mike Schmidt in the spring of 1977. It was a female with a shell that measured over 45 centimeters!

The scientific name for the Smooth Softshell is Trionyx muticus. The Smooth Softshell looks much like the spiny, but does not get as large. It also does not have the spines on the top shell.

Ornate Box Turtles are Sumner County turtles that live on land. Their scientific name is Terrapene o. ornata. They get from 10-13 centimeters shell length. They have yellow markings on their backs with black and brown. Females usually have brown eyes and males sometimes have red eyes. They live many years.

Chelydra serpentina is the scientific name for the Common Snapping Turtle. It has a rough shell and a long rough tail. They get to over 40 centimeters long. Its shell is hard and does not bend. It is found in all parts of Sumner County.

Two species of turtles that might be found in the county, but so far have not been recorded are: the Three Toed Box Turtle and the Alligator Snapping Turtle. The Three Toed Box Turtle is quite common to the east of Sumner and may be found along the eastern border of the county. The Alligator Snapping Turtle is very rare in all parts of Kansas. If it is found in Sumner County it would be in the deeper rivers.

Information for this story came from several books on herpetology as well as from looking at live specimens of most of the turtles written about. Preserved specimens were also examined.

---ANITA KERN, LESLIE RICE and MICHELLE WARNER
Caldwell Elementary School Science Students
Caldwell, Kansas 67002
Candidate for President Elect

STAN D. ROTH

Present Position:
Biology Teacher, Lawrence High School, Lawrence, Kansas and Research Associate, State Biological Survey and State Fish and Game Commission.

Degrees: B.S.Ed. and M.S., Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas.


Tiny Frog’s Breeding Called a First

WICHITA—Officials of the Sedgwick County Zoo claim the first successful breeding of a South American poison arrow frog.

"It's a first for any North American zoo," said herpetologist Peter Gray. The frog, genus Phyllobates lugubris, is a black frog with orange racing stripes running the length of its 1⅖-inch body.

The frogs, which come from the Amazon River basin, have been used by natives for making poison blow darts. But Gray said the frogs must be subjected to lethal stress to get poison out of them.

THE KANSAS CITY TIMES Thursday, August 24, 1978

PRESERVE REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

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ST. LOUIS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Call For Papers
67th session of the
Oklahoma Academy Of Science
Oklahoma State University
November 3, 1978

Academy members and their students (graduate or undergraduate) are invited to submit titles for possible inclusion in one of several contributed paper sessions:

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<td>(Botany - Zoology)</td>
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<td>Biochemistry - Biophysics</td>
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(Undergraduate student papers may be presented in a special COLLEGIATE ACADEMY SECTION)

Submit Title of Paper To: Dr. Jim Lovell, Exec. Sec. - Treas. Oklahoma Academy of Science Southwestern Oklahoma State University Weatherford, OK 73096

Titles of papers must be received by Sept. 30, 1978 for consideration.

Information to be submitted with title of paper:

a) Author(s)
b) Institutions
c) Time for presentation (up to 15 minutes)
d) Section Paper to be presented in

Non members may apply for membership: annual dues - $10.00 for professional members $5.00 for student associates.
--- 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) and $15.00 (contributing) payable to: Marjorie Perry, KHS 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 EDITOR: Rose Etta Kurtz, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045.