

ISSN 1540-773X

# *JOURNAL OF* KANSAS HERPETOLOGY

NUMBER 14 JUNE 2005



*Published by the Kansas Herpetological Society*



# KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR 2005

## *President*

DAVID OLDHAM  
Graphics & Imaging Technology  
*Pittsburg State University*  
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762  
(620-795-2293) oldham@oswego.net

## *President-Elect*

CURTIS J. SCHMIDT  
Sternberg Museum of Natural History  
*Fort Hays State University*  
Hays, Kansas 67601  
(785-650-2447) cjschmidt@fhsu.edu

## *Past-President*

EVA HORNE  
Division of Biology  
*Kansas State University*  
Manhattan, Kansas 66506  
(785-532-5929) ehorne@ksu.edu

## *Treasurer*

ERIC KESSLER  
5624 Cherry Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64111  
(816-444-4794)  
ekessler@bluevalleyk12.org

## *Historian*

SUZANNE L. COLLINS  
*The Center for North  
American Herpetology*  
1502 Medinah Circle  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047  
(785-749-3467)  
scollins@ku.edu

## *Secretary*

MARY KATE BALDWIN  
5438 SW 12th Terrace Apt. 4  
Topeka, Kansas 66604  
(785-272-1076)  
mbaldwin@networksplus.net

## *Editor*

TRAVIS W. TAGGART  
*Sternberg Museum of Natural History*  
Fort Hays State University  
Hays, Kansas 67601-2006  
(785-650-2445)  
ttaggart@fhsu.edu

## *Associate Editor*

JOSEPH T. COLLINS  
*Kansas Biological Survey*  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047  
(785-749-3467)  
jcollins@ku.edu

## KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

### *Awards*

DANIEL D. FOGELL  
Department of Biology  
*University of Nebraska*  
Omaha, Nebraska 68182  
(402-334-2355)  
ddfogell@mail.unomaha.edu

### *Field Trips*

MARK ELLIS  
LARRY L. MILLER  
10025 SW Jordan Road  
Wakarusa, Kansas 67205  
(785-836-2272)  
kathyshidler@yahoo.com

### *Media & Publicity*

ROBIN OLDHAM  
716 Michigan Street  
Oswego, Kansas 67356  
(620-795-2293)  
oldham@oswego.net

### *Nominating*

JOSEPH T. COLLINS  
Kansas Biological Survey  
*University of Kansas*  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047  
(785-749-3467)  
jcollins@ku.edu

## DISTINGUISHED LIFE MEMBERS

ROBERT F. CLARKE  
Emporia State University  
Kansas

HENRY S. FITCH  
The University of Kansas  
Lawrence

HOBART M. SMITH  
The University of Colorado  
Boulder

JOSEPH T. COLLINS  
The Center for North American Herpetology  
Lawrence, Kansas

HOWARD K. GLOYD  
The University of Arizona, Tucson  
(1902–1978)

EDWARD H. TAYLOR  
The University of Kansas, Lawrence  
(1889–1978)

DWIGHT R. PLATT  
Bethel College, North Newton  
Kansas

## KHS LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES

*Ken Brunson*  
Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks  
(316-672-5911)

*Joseph T. Collins*  
Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council  
(785-749-3467)

Front Cover: Max Stieben (left) and Charlie Stieben examine a Western Slender Glass Lizard (*Ophisaurus attenuatus*) from Ellis County, Kansas. Discoveries such as these at a young age often make a lasting impression and may contribute to an increasing environmental awareness as children grow to adulthood. Photograph by Travis W. Taggart, Hays, Kansas.

# *Journal of Kansas Herpetology*

NUMBER 14 — JUNE 2005

## CONTENTS

### KHS BUSINESS

Fall 2005 KHS Field Trip Scheduled for Crawford County .....	2
Results of 2005 KHS Spring Field Trip to Shawnee County .....	2
Donors .....	7
KHS Proposed By-Law Change .....	7
KHS Scholarship & Grant Deadlines .....	7
KHS Annual Meeting Call for Papers .....	7
KHS 2005 Herpetofaunal Counts .....	7
New Members Wanted .....	7

### OF INTEREST

Grotto Salamanders Desired .....	8
Spadefoot Samples Sought .....	8
Narrowmouths Needed .....	8
Chelonian Data Needed .....	8
KHS Photography Competition .....	9
Historical KHS Photographs .....	9
Herpetology Course at Washburn Fall Semester 2005 .....	9

### LIFE HISTORY NOTES

<i>Podarcis sicula</i> Winter Activity, by Larry L. Miller .....	10
<i>Sceloporus consobrinus</i> New State Maximum Length, by Curtis J. Schmidt & Travis W. Taggart .....	10
<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i> New State Maximum Length, by Travis W. Taggart & Curtis J. Schmidt .....	10
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i> Diet, by Thomas L. Flowers .....	10

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

<i>Rana areolata</i> from Kansas, by Travis W. Taggart & Curtis J. Schmidt .....	11
<i>Rana areolata</i> from Kansas, by Travis W. Taggart & Curtis J. Schmidt .....	11
<i>Rana areolata</i> from Kansas, by Curtis J. Schmidt, Dan Murrow & Travis W. Taggart .....	11
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i> from Kansas, by Travis W. Taggart & Curtis J. Schmidt .....	11
<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i> from Kansas, by Travis W. Taggart & Curtis J. Schmidt .....	11
<i>Eumeces laticeps</i> from Kansas, by Derek Welch .....	11
<i>Diadophis punctatus</i> from Kansas, by Travis W. Taggart & Curtis J. Schmidt .....	11
<i>Nerodia erythrogaster</i> from Kansas, by Curtis J. Schmidt & Travis W. Taggart .....	11
<i>Crotalus horridus</i> from Kansas, by Travis W. Taggart & Curtis J. Schmidt .....	11

### NOTES

A Survey for Selected Species of Herpetofauna in the Lower Marais des Cygnes River Valley, Linn and Miami Counties, Kansas by Kelly J. Irwin & Joseph T. Collins .....	12
--	----

### ARTICLES

Disappearance of Radio-Monitored Timber Rattlesnakes by Henry S. Fitch & George R. Pisani .....	14
<i>Plestiodon</i> : A Replacement Name for Most Members of the Genus <i>Eumeces</i> in North America by Hobart M. Smith .....	15

## KHS BUSINESS

### FALL 2005 KHS FIELD TRIP SCHEDULED FOR CRAWFORD COUNTY

The fall 2005 KHS field trip will be held at Crawford County State Lake in southeastern Kansas. The dates of the field trip will be 1–2 October 2005. Although many participants will arrive the afternoon and evening of Friday, 30 September (look for the big KHS sign at the reservoir), the first organized count will begin at 9:00 am on Saturday, 1 October. The second organized survey will take place at 9:00 am on Sunday, 2 October. The meeting place for the field trips will be Crawford County State Lake, which is located approximately 8 miles north and 1.5 miles east of Girard. Please contact Mark Ellis and/or Larry L. Miller, KHS Field Trip Co-Chairpersons (see inside front cover) for information about the availability of motels and restaurants in the area. Crawford County State Lake has camping, restrooms, showers, and electrical hookups, as well as a marina restaurant. More information will be posted on the KHS web site as it becomes available.

The Crawford County field trip will be the only official fall KHS field trip for 2005. Start making plans now to attend this exciting Society event.

### RESULTS OF THE 2005 KHS SPRING FIELD TRIP TO SHAWNEE COUNTY

On 22 April 2005, KHS members traveled to Shawnee County, Kansas, to search for and count amphibians, turtles, and reptiles found there. Many participants gathered and explored Shawnee County State Lake on Friday night (it was cold, but at least it didn't snow), and at 9:00 am on Saturday morning an astounding 118 participants were present for the herpetofaunal count.

Society president David Oldham applauded the record-breaking participation and observed that KHS members, friends, and guests spent two great days counting many northeastern Kansas species of amphibians, turtles, and reptiles. Curtis Schmidt, associate curator of herpetology at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, and KHS president-elect was also present to obtain scientific specimens. Schmidt is assisting with a state-wide field survey of the Kansas herpetofauna (under a State Wildlife Grant from KDWP and the USFWS), and he acquired much valuable data on the distribution and abundance of these creatures in Shawnee County. Once again, KHS member Michael Washburne made an extra effort to obtain data and samples for the study, traveling north from Elk Falls on Saturday to deliver additional specimens from southeastern Kansas for the Sternberg Museum collection.

On Sunday morning, a hardy 41 participants remained to conduct the final herpetofaunal count at 21st Street and Gage Boulevard in Topeka. There they observed the ever swift Italian Wall Lizards, chasing hundreds but catching only fifteen.

Special recognition goes to KHS treasurer Eric Kessler, who brought over 25 of his students from

Blue Valley North High School. It was another great KHS field trip. And our thanks to Larry L. Miller and Mark Ellis, KHS Field Trip Co-Chairpersons; they organized an event so fine that everyone eagerly awaits the Society fall field trip in October.

The count for 22–23 April 2005 was as follows:

*Kansas: Shawnee Co: Shawnee County State Lake & environs, and Greene Wildlife Refuge & environs*

American Toad .....	1
Northern Cricket Frog .....	109
Boreal Chorus Frog .....	1
Plains Leopard Frog .....	44
Bullfrog .....	27
Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad .....	3
Common Snapping Turtle .....	1
Northern Painted Turtle .....	10
Ornate Box Turtle .....	18
Spiny Softshell .....	1
Five-lined Skink .....	6
Great Plains Skink .....	27
Northern Prairie Skink .....	20
Ground Skink .....	3
Six-lined Racerunner .....	6
Ringneck Snake .....	141
Eastern Racer .....	6
Prairie Kingsnake .....	2
Common Kingsnake .....	15

Milk Snake .....	2
Western Rat Snake .....	3
Northern Water Snake .....	4
Brown Snake .....	3
Western Ribbon Snake .....	1
Common Garter Snake .....	10
Lined Snake .....	19
Massasauga .....	3

*Total*

27 species ..... 486 specimens

The count for 24 April 2005 (9:00 am to noon) was as follows:

*Kansas: Shawnee Co: Topeka, junction of 21st Street & Gage Boulevard*

Italian Wall Lizard ..... 15

1 species ..... 15 specimens

*Grand Total*

28 species ..... 501 specimens

Participants were: Ted Abel, Cathy Acuff, Laura Acuff, Robert Acuff, Shandi Appier, Laura Baldwin, Lucia Baldwin, Mary Kate Baldwin, Alex Bergman, Katie Bergman, Gerard Brungardt, Tom Brungardt, Morgan Butrick, Dan Carpenter, Nathan Carpenter, Shelbi Carpenter, Keith Coleman, Joseph T. Collins, Suzanne L. Collins, Michael Dee, Rob Dellinger, Nick Dorando, Erin Dugan, Andy Durbin, Chris Eberle, Matt Eberle, T. J. Eberle, Tim Eberle, Kathy Ellis, Mark Ellis, Seth Franklin, David H. Fisher, Jr., Amy Gaston, Jason Gevargizian, Alan Gravenstein, Tanner Gravenstein, James Gubanyi, Julian Gubanyi, Marla Gubanyi, Molly Heil, Calen Henderson, Emily Hooser, Debbie Horne, David Humenczuk, Adam Hutchison, Anna Hutchison, Dan Hutchison, Diana Hutchison, Dan Johnson, Dustin Johnson, Graceanne Johnson, Jennifer Johnson, Eric Kessler, Maura Kessler, Rebecca Kessler, Patrick Kimes, Nyalca Lui, Nason Lui, Tyler Lambrecht, Emmy Lieser, Jill Lokke, Brandon Low, Judy Low, Kipp Low, Todd Martin, Clara Martin, Jacob Martin, Jessica Martinez, Andrea May, Brad May, Darwin May, Jim McMillan, Loreen McMillan, S. Ross McNearney, Jordan Mehaltz, Sasha Meshugian, Evan Mielke, Jim Mielke, Larry L. Miller, Suzanne Miller, Tammy Miller, Tyler Miller, Bill Munholland, William Munholland, Dan Murrow, Tim Nichols, David Oldham, Jackson Oldham, Robin

Oldham, Tag Oldham, Mark Pheasant, Michel Province, Mike Rooney, Jeff Rupert, Brett Schmidt, Curtis Schmidt, Derek Schmidt, Tanner Shreeve, Zach Simson, Steven Skare, Sara Sloan, George Stevenson, Randy Stringer, Ryan Stringer, Sean Stringer, Ahad Syed, Anna Tarnowski, Jeremiah Teller, Jeremy Washburne, Michael Washburne, Ginny Weatherman, Chad Whitney, Anna Whittington, Mike Wildgen, Garrett Wilkinson, Victor Wilkinson, Jefferson Wu, and Michael Wu.



An Ornate Box Turtle, our state symbol, steps lively for the camera. Many of these gentle creatures were observed during the KHS spring field trip to Shawnee County State Lake. Photograph by David Oldham.



An adult Massasauga absorbs heat from a concrete slab during the 2005 spring field trip of the Kansas Herpetological Society that was headquartered at Shawnee County State Fishing Lake. This snake is quite common around the lake, but due to cool temperatures only three were discovered during the event. Photograph by Larry L. Miller.





L–R: Rob Acuff, Jennifer Johnson, Chad Whitney (rear), Grace Ann Johnson, Laura Acuff, Jeremy Washburne, Seth Franklin, and Michael Washburne made significant finds during the KHS spring field trip. Here they gather for a portrait after dinner. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.



Larry L. Miller, KHS field trip co-chairperson, uses a time-honored method of getting a snake to pose for the camera — blowing on it. Of course, you don't want to get too close. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.



Three wildlife photographers from Topeka spend some time photographing an adult male Ornate Box Turtle and several other species during the spring field trip. Photograph by Larry L. Miller.



Milk Snakes were discovered during the 2005 KHS spring field trip to Shawnee County State Lake. These colorful reptiles are a favorite with photographers. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.



KHS members (left to right) Suzanne Collins, Joe Collins, Suzanne Miller, Kathy Ellis, and Mark Ellis relax around the campsite at Shawnee County State Fishing Lake from 22–24 April 2005. Photograph by Larry L. Miller.



Tom Brungardt (standing) along with Judy Low (seated right) share some lunch with younger KHS field trip participants. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.



KHS Co-Field Trip Chairperson Mark Ellis addresses some of the 118 people that participated in the spring 2005 KHS field trip that was held at Shawnee County State Fishing Lake from 22–24 April 2005. Photograph by Larry L. Miller.

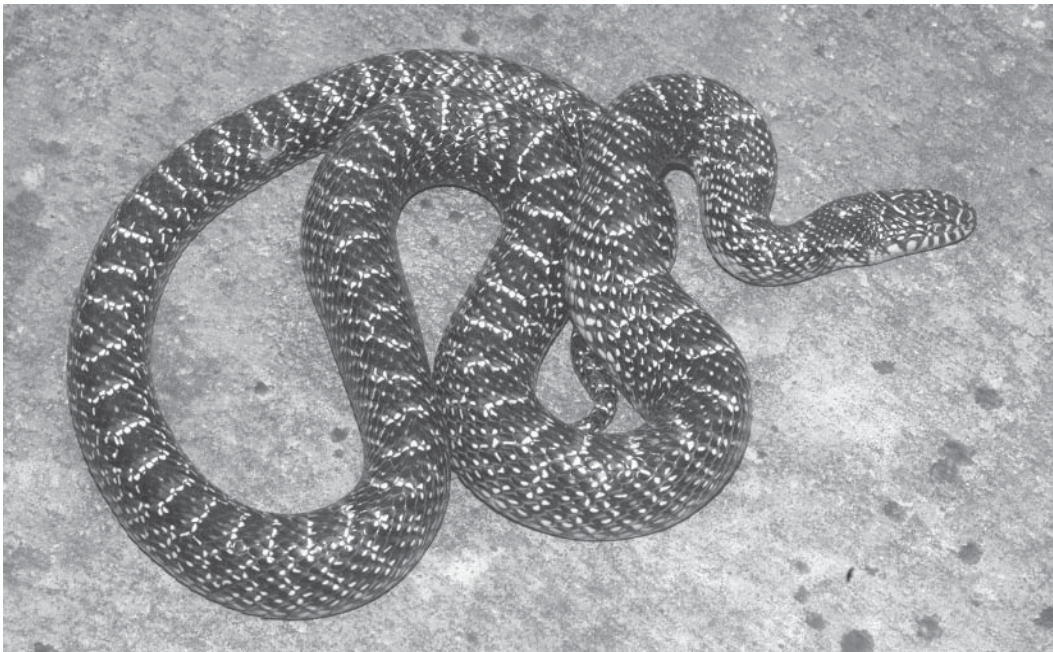


Six Eastern Racers were found during the 2005 KHS spring field trip to Shawnee County State Lake. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.





During the Sunday morning herpetofaunal count, Jim Gubanyi speaks to a group of participants assembled at 21st Street and Gage Boulevard prior to their search for some of the alien Italian Wall Lizards that have established populations in Topeka. Jim once worked for the owner of the biology supply house from which these non-native animals escaped or were released in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He probably knows more than anyone about the history of these reptiles in Topeka. Photograph by Larry L. Miller.



Common Kingsnakes were an abundant component of the Shawnee County State Lake herpetofauna. Fifteen of these reptiles were found during the KHS 2005 Spring Field Trip count in April. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.



### Donors

Few tributes are so lasting or honor individuals so well as donations. The *Kansas Herpetological Society* is privileged to carry on the aims and goals of the Society through its awards, grants, and scholarships. This list recognizes donations received since the last issue of the *Journal of Kansas Herpetology*.

#### *The Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes*

Jennifer Johnson  
George W. Roycroft, Jr.  
Hobart M. Smith

#### *The Howard K. Gloyd-Edward H. Taylor Scholarship*

Jennifer Johnson  
George W. Roycroft, Jr.  
Hobart M. Smith  
Becki Yoder

### Proposed KHS By-Law Change

The following proposed changes in the Kansas Herpetological Society By-laws will be presented to the membership at the 2005 Annual Business Meeting in Pittsburg, Kansas. If approved, the changes will go into effect on 1 January 2006.

#### PROPOSED CHANGES

##### Article VII. Dues

*Delete* Section 2. Dues shall not exceed \$15.00 annually

*Change* Section 3 to become a new Section 2

*Rationale: The change is needed now to permit future KHS Executive Councils the flexibility necessary to maintain the Society in a prudent manner.*

### KHS SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT DEADLINES

Individuals are reminded that the deadline is 15 September 2005 for submission of applications for the *Howard K. Gloyd-Edward H. Taylor Scholarship* and the *Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes*. Self-nominations for the *Gloyd-Taylor Scholarship* are encouraged. Submissions for both the scholarship and grant should be sent to the Chairperson of the KHS Awards Committee (see inside front cover).

### KHS ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR PAPERS

The program for the KHS 32nd Annual Meeting will be held at *Pittsburg State University*, Pittsburg, Kansas, on 5–6 November 2005. Lodging arrangements will not be made by the KHS; program and motels will soon be listed on the KHS web site. Participants wishing to present a talk should contact David Oldham with their title, institutional address, and abstract at [oldham@oswego.net](mailto:oldham@oswego.net) no later than 1 October 2005. Copies of the title and institutional address should also be sent to Joe Collins ([jcollins@ku.edu](mailto:jcollins@ku.edu)) for posting on the KHS web site meeting program. Individuals using US mail should send this information to both Oldham and Collins (see inside front cover). Presenters wishing to be considered for *The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology* should so indicate with their submission.

### KHS 2005 HERPETOFAUNAL COUNTS

KHS members are reminded to send their spring 2005 herp counts to the associate editor (see inside front cover) as soon as possible. All such counts will be published in the September issue of the *Journal of Kansas Herpetology*. Counts must have been conducted during April and May of 2005 only, and must list locality, date, participants, and complete address of the verifier. Additional data such as time span and weather can be submitted, and will be included as space permits. Counts can be sent as email text to

[jcollins@ku.edu](mailto:jcollins@ku.edu)

### NEW MEMBERS WANTED

If you know of someone interested in herpetology, urge that they join the KHS by sending their calendar 2005 membership dues (\$15.00 regular, \$20.00 contributing) to:

Mary Kate Baldwin  
*KHS Secretary*  
5438 SW 12th Terrace Apt. 4  
Topeka, Kansas 66604

Membership in the KHS has many benefits, and supports the KHS and its many fine programs. Also, members are eligible for KHS grants and scholarships. If you have received this issue, you have already paid your dues for 2005; please encourage a friend or colleague to join. The KHS is the strongest state herpetological society in the nation; keep us that way by promoting membership growth.

## OF INTEREST

### GROTTO SALAMANDERS DESIRED

I am a graduate student at Wake Forest University under the supervision of Miriam Ashley-Ross. I am studying the feeding biomechanics of *Eurycea spelaea* (formerly *Typhlotriton spelaeus*) and am in need of several live specimens (at least 6 cm in total length) for observation. I would appreciate any assistance that anyone can provide in locating and obtaining such specimens.

If anyone can help, please contact me at the following address, telephone, or email:

Melanie Huston  
Department of Biology  
Wake Forest University  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27109  
(336) 682-5521  
hustmm4@wfu.edu

### SPADEFoot SAMPLES SOUGHT

We are doctoral students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in David Pfennig's lab. We need Western Spadefoot samples (*Spea bombifrons*, *S. hammondi*, *S. intermontana*, and *S. multiplicata*) for several projects. We specifically need tissue samples (frozen or preserved in ethanol) for DNA sequencing and microsat genotyping. Our most immediate need is *S. bombifrons* from Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. For all samples, we need information on date and location (county and state) of collection. We appreciate any help. We will gladly pay for shipping, so please email either one of us for our Fedex number.

Please send samples to:

Pfennig Lab  
Attn: George Harper or Amber Rice  
302 Wilson Hall  
South Road  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599

For more information, contact:

Amber Rice  
arice@email.unc.edu  
(919) 962-3595

George Harper  
gharper@email.unc.edu  
(919) 843-5593

### NARROWMOUTHS NEEDED

I am a student at the University of Alabama, and I am working on a phylogeographic study of the Eastern Narrowmouth Toad (*Gastrophryne carolinensis*) with Dr. Leslie Rissler. We need tissue specimens from as many individuals throughout the range of this species as possible to conduct our study. Thus far our collection efforts have produced samples from the northwestern and southeastern corners of Alabama. Individuals from all areas in this species range are needed, along with information on where they were collected. We need this data to be as specific as possible; we use GPS coordinates, but county and state of collection would suffice. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

If anyone manages to collect or has collected specimens of the Eastern Narrowmouth Toad that they would be willing to share with us, please contact me at:

Jason Chesser  
chess002@bama.ua.edu

### CHELONIAN DATA NEEDED

I am writing a review on hibernation and the time of hatchling emergence (fall versus spring) for chelonians in the southern United States, particularly *Apalone spinifera* (Spiny Softshell), *Sternotherus odoratus* (Common Musk Turtle), *Graptemys geographica* (Common Map Turtle), and *Chelydra serpentina* (Common Snapping Turtle). However, information on any species would be useful, and the farther south the better. For northern species, information on *Clemmys guttata* (Spotted Turtles), *Glyptemys muhlenbergii* (Bog Turtles), and any species of *Graptemys* would be useful. For data to be useful, it should be definitive: i.e., caged nests, actual observations of turtle hatchlings leaving the nest, etc. If you have any questions, my address is:

Gordon R. Ultsch  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0344  
Phone: 205-348-1827  
Fax: 205-348-1786  
gultsch@biology.as.ua.edu

## KHS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

KHS members are invited to participate in a competitive exhibit of photographs of native Kansas amphibians, turtles, and reptiles, all of which will be candidates for *The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology*. The competing photographs will be featured and available for viewing in Room 218 in Heckert-Wells Hall at Pittsburg State University from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, 5 November 2005. Photographers should plan to have their images set up *no later than* 10:00 am on that same date. All photographers exhibiting must be KHS members, and each photographer is limited to five (5) images. The photographer chosen as the 2005 recipient of *The Collins Award* must be present to receive it.

Images will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, color, action, drama, and overall impact. Entry to the competition constitutes agreement by the photographer to allow the winning photograph to be published by the KHS on its web site or in publicity releases. Entrants retain all other rights to the future use of their winning photograph. Prints must be mounted on stiff board for display purposes (no frames) and should be no larger than 11 x 16 inches. The back of each photograph must bear the photographer's name, address, telephone number, and entry number (1–5). The identity of the photographer will not be revealed to the members of the KHS Awards Committee. Photographers are responsible for their entries at all times. The KHS assumes no responsibility or liability for any photographic entries.

## HISTORICAL KHS PHOTOGRAPHS

KHS members can access a variety of photographs from KHS related field trips and meetings dating back to the mid 1970s, as well as images from some of the most recent activities, by accessing some of the many scientific, historical, educational, and photographic links at the following website:

<http://tcslacerta.tripod.com/tcsphotos/>.

The website is updated on an irregular basis, with future plans calling for a collection of rare photographs of KHS members and their friends taken between the early 1980s and the late 1990s. Bookmark the site and check back often.

Larry L. Miller  
Kansas Heritage Photography  
840 SW 97th Street  
Wakarusa, Kansas 66546

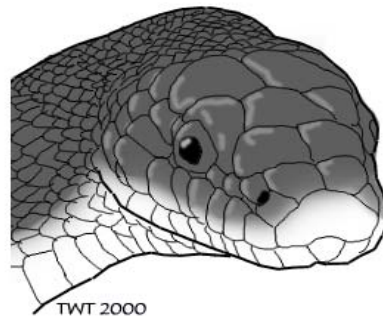
## HERPETOLOGY COURSE AT WASHBURN FALL SEMESTER 2005

For the eighth straight year, KHS member Joseph T. Collins will teach his course, *Kansas Amphibians, Turtles, and Reptiles*, at Washburn University in Topeka in the fall semester of 2005.

The course covers the classification, distribution and natural history of the nearly 100 kinds of amphibians, turtles, and reptiles found in Kansas. The lectures will integrate the instructor's personal observations with the known natural history of these fascinating animals. Special subjects include herpetoculture, herpetofauna in the classroom, and endangered and threatened species. Three field trips are planned. *With permission of superintendent or teacher certification officer, can be used toward renewal of Kansas teaching certificate*. Offered for traditional and non-traditional students.

Collins is co-author of the *Peterson Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America*, which has the widest distribution of any book ever written on herpetology. Textbook for the course is *Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas. Third Edition*, written by Collins and available from him on the first day of class or from a local bookstore. Gratis copies of *A Guide to Great Snakes in Kansas Second Edition* (2001), *Standard Common and Current Scientific Names for North American Amphibians, Turtles, Reptiles, and Crocodilians. Fifth Edition* (2002), and *A Checklist to the Vertebrate Animals of Kansas, Third Edition* (2005) will be given as handouts to all students enrolled in the course.

For more information about the course, contact Jeannie Cornelius, Department of Biology, Washburn University, 1700 College Avenue, Topeka, Kansas, or call (785) 231-1010 ext. 1343.





## LIFE HISTORY NOTES

**PODARCIS SICULA** (Italian Wall Lizard). Winter Activity. I observed a young adult Italian Wall Lizard sunning itself at 1:20 pm on 20 January 2005. The lizard was perched on a log about 20 cm above the ground on the south side of the Northern Hills Junior High School biology room in Shawnee County, Kansas. The air temperature (in the shade) close to where the lizard was perched was 56°F. The humidity was 60%. The lizard was in direct sunlight. The temperature was not recorded on the surface of the log. The area where the lizard was observed was protected on all sides, thus wind was calm at the site. A considerable amount of ice and snow covered much of the area. At 1:30 pm the log the lizard was perched on was no longer in direct sunlight and the lizard had disappeared; it was not observed leaving its perch.

Submitted by **LARRY L. MILLER**, Biology Department, Northern Hills Junior High School, 5620 NW Topeka Boulevard, Topeka, Kansas 66617.

**SCELOPORUS CONSOBRINUS** (Prairie Lizard). NEW STATE MAXIMUM LENGTH. KANSAS: Cherokee Co: NW1/4, Sec.36, T33S, R35E. 29 April 1967. L. H. Panks. MHP 4254. Verified by Richard S. Hayes. SVL = 75 mm ( 2.95 inches), TL = 165 mm (6.5 inches). Exceeds previous record SVL of 67 mm as reported by Collins and Collins (1993. Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas. Third Edition. Univ. Press Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.).

Submitted by **CURTIS J. SCHMIDT** and **TRAVIS W. TAGGART**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

**PHRYNOSOMA CORNUTUM** (Texas Horned Lizard). NEW STATE MAXIMUM LENGTH. KANSAS: Stevens Co: 1.8 mi N & 10.5 mi W Hugoton (Sec. 2, T33S, R39W), N°37.2028, W°101.5372. 31 May 2002. Female. Travis W. Taggart and Curtis J. Schmidt. MHP 7469. Verified by Richard S. Hayes. SVL = 90 mm (3.54 inches), TL = 123 mm (4.84 inches). Exceeds previous record TL of 118 mm as reported by Collins and Collins (1993. Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas. Third Edition. Univ. Press Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.).

Submitted by **TRAVIS W. TAGGART** and **CURTIS J. SCHMIDT**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

**RANA CATESBEIANA** (Bullfrog). Diet. Kansas: Meade Co: While bird banding over shallow water at Meade State Park on 6 May 2005, I approached my mist net and saw something hanging from it which did not appear to be a bird. As I got nearer, I found it to be a Bullfrog, about 25 cm in length (nose to end of feet). Because we were conducting a field day for primary school students which included fishes, mammals, and birds, I thought our fish specialist might be able to use a frog in his demonstrations. When I grabbed the Bullfrog, which did not appear to be tangled in the net, it opened its mouth wide, revealing a Common Yellowthroat, which it had completely swallowed. The Bullfrog was later released unharmed at Meade State Fish Hatchery.

The frog had to have jumped at least three feet above the water level to grab the bird in the net. Charles Ely (pers. comm.) had similar experiences near Hays, Ellis County, Kansas, where Bullfrogs killed and attempted to eat Red-winged Blackbirds in mist nets set over water. The Blackbirds however proved too large to consume. I've had cats, dogs, raccoons and even a snake try to take birds in mist nets, but this is the first banding casualty for me from an amphibian!

Submitted by **THOMAS L. FLOWERS**, P. O. Box 87, Meade, Kansas 67864.



A Bullfrog and the Common Yellowthroat that it tried to eat while the bird was entangled in a mist net in Meade County, Kansas. Natural Resources Conservation Service Photograph.

## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

***RANA AREOLATA*** (Crawfish Frog). KANSAS: CHAUTAUQUA CO: N°37.00830, W°96.06506. 24 March 2005. Travis W. Taggart. MHP 10437. Verified by Richard S. Hayes. New county record (Collins and Collins, 1993. Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas. Third Edition. Univ. Press Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.)

Submitted by **TRAVIS W. TAGGART** and **CURTIS J. SCHMIDT**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

***RANA AREOLATA*** (Crawfish Frog). KANSAS: MONTGOMERY CO: N°37.11445, W°95.94651. 24 March 2005. Travis W. Taggart. MHP 10436. Verified by Richard S. Hayes. New county record (Collins and Collins, 1993. Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas. Third Edition. Univ. Press Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.)

Submitted by **TRAVIS W. TAGGART** and **CURTIS J. SCHMIDT**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

***RANA AREOLATA*** (Crawfish Frog). KANSAS: NEOSHO CO: N°37.54390, W°95.31507. 30 March 2005. Curtis J. Schmidt and Dan Murrow. MHP 10432. Verified by Richard S. Hayes. New county record (Collins and Collins, 1993. Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas. Third Edition. Univ. Press Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.)

Submitted by **CURTIS J. SCHMIDT**, **DAN MURROW**, and **TRAVIS W. TAGGART**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

***CHELYDRA SERPENTINA*** (Common Snapping Turtle). KANSAS: SEWARD CO: N°37.06902, W°100.89437. 23 May 2005. Travis W. Taggart and Curtis J. Schmidt. MHP 11155. New county record (Collins and Collins, 1993, Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas, Third Edition, Univ. Press Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.). Verified by Richard S. Hayes.

Submitted by **TRAVIS W. TAGGART** and **CURTIS J. SCHMIDT**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

***PHRYNOSOMA CORNUTUM*** (Texas Horned Lizard). KANSAS: LYON CO: N°38.36187, W°96.33623. 4 May 2005. Travis W. Taggart, Curtis J. Schmidt, Joseph T. Collins, and Suzanne L. Collins. MHP 10895. New county record (Collins and Collins, 1993,

Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas, Third Edition, Univ. Press Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.). Verified by Richard S. Hayes.

Submitted by **TRAVIS W. TAGGART** and **CURTIS J. SCHMIDT**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

***EUMECES LATICEPS*** (Broadhead Skink). KANSAS: BOURBON CO: N°37.77603, W°94.83066. 5 May 2005. Derek Welch, Curtis J. Schmidt, and Travis W. Taggart. MHP 10799. Verified by Richard S. Hayes. New county record (Collins and Collins, 1993. Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas. Third Edition. Univ. Press Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.)

Submitted by **DEREK WELCH**, 1183-155th Street, Fort Scott, Kansas 66701.

***DIADOPHIS PUNCTATUS*** (Ringneck Snake). KANSAS: SEWARD CO: N°37.14947, W°100.74735. 23 May 2005. Travis W. Taggart and Curtis J. Schmidt. MHP 11156. New county record (Collins and Collins, 1993, Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas, Third Edition, Univ. Press Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.). Verified by Richard S. Hayes.

Submitted by **TRAVIS W. TAGGART** and **CURTIS J. SCHMIDT**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

***NERODIA ERYTHROGASTER*** (Plainbelly Water Snake). KANSAS: SEWARD CO: N°37.14057, W°100.77844. 23 May 2005. Travis W. Taggart and Curtis J. Schmidt. MHP 11159. New county record (Collins and Collins, 1993, Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas, Third Edition, Univ. Press Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.). Verified by Richard S. Hayes.

Submitted by **CURTIS J. SCHMIDT** and **TRAVIS W. TAGGART**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

***CROTALUS HORRIDUS*** (Timber Rattlesnake). KANSAS: ALLEN CO: N°37.80950, W°95.08798. 3 May 2005. Travis W. Taggart and Curtis J. Schmidt. MHP 11157. New county record (Collins and Collins, 1993, Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas, Third Edition, Univ. Press Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.). Verified by Richard S. Hayes.

Submitted by **TRAVIS W. TAGGART** and **CURTIS J. SCHMIDT**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

## NOTES

### A SURVEY FOR SELECTED SPECIES OF HERPETOFAUNA IN THE LOWER MARAIS DES CYGNES RIVER VALLEY, LINN AND MIAMI COUNTIES, KANSAS

Kelly J. Irwin  
*Arkansas Game & Fish Commission*  
915 East Sevier Street  
Benton, Arkansas 72015

Joseph T. Collins  
*Kansas Biological Survey*  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047

#### *Introduction*

During the spring of 1994, a preliminary survey for threatened and endangered reptiles, turtles, and amphibians in the lower Marais des Cygnes River valley was initiated. Field work was centered around the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area, with additional work in the Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge and La Cygne Wildlife Area. Seven trips were made to the area, totaling fourteen days of field work. Of the thirty-eight species of reptiles, turtles, and amphibians observed during this survey, three are officially listed as threatened. County records are based on Collins (1993). All specimens were deposited in the herpetological collections of the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence (KU).

#### *Threatened Species Encountered During the Survey*

16 April 1994

Broadhead Skink (*Eumeces laticeps*). Linn Co: NW 1/4 Sec. 20, T21S, R25E, Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge (KU 222264).

An adult male active on a large cedar tree adjacent to a collapsed farm house and out buildings at an upland site in old field succession and hardwood forest.

17 April 1994

Smooth Earth Snake (*Virginia valeriae*). Linn Co: NW 1/4 Sec. 27, T20S, R24E, Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area (KU 222266).

An adult (sex undetermined) found under a limestone rock on an east-facing hilltop in mature oak-hickory forest.

Eastern Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*). Linn Co: NW 1/4 Sec. 27, T20S, R24E, Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area (KU 222261).

An eft-stage specimen was found under a limestone rock on a southeast-facing hillside in mature oak-hickory forest. Single adults of *Carphophis vermis* and *Diadophis punctatus* were found in association with the eft (Irwin 1994).

23 April 1994

Eastern Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*). Linn Co: SE 1/4 Sec. 27, T20S, R24E, Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area.

An eft was discovered under rock in a mature oak-hickory forest on the west-facing slope of a hill.

Eastern Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) Linn Co: NW 1/4 Sec. 27, T20S, R24E, Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area.

An eft-stage specimen was found under a rock in a mature oak-hickory forest on the northwest-facing slope of a hill.

Eastern Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) Linn Co: SE 1/4 Sec. 27, T20S, R24E, Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area (KU 222262).

Between 2100 and 2400 hours, four adults (one male, three females) were observed along the margins of a marsh. All were in breeding condition, as noted by the distended abdomens of the egg-laden females and the swollen cloaca and expanded caudal fin in the male. These newts were in water ca. 10–12 inches (25–30 cm) in depth under a canopy of young ash and maple ca. 20–25 feet (6–7.5 meters) in height. The amphibians were observed suspended in the water column either on or near scattered grass clumps.



7 May 1994

Broadhead Skink (*Eumeces laticeps*). Linn Co: NW 1/4 Sec. 11, T21S, R25E, Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge (KU 222265).

Four specimens of this lizard were found at this locality, two adult males and two juveniles. All individuals were found under corrugated tin roofing from abandoned farm buildings in successional old field and bottomland hardwood forest.

8 May 1994

Broadhead Skink (*Eumeces laticeps*). Miami Co: SE 1/4 Sec. 8, T19S, R25E, La Cygne Wildlife Area.

A gravid adult female discovered under a limestone rock in an oak-hickory forest on an east-facing hillside above Elm Creek.

#### County Records

Broadhead Skink (*Eumeces laticeps*). Linn Co: NW 1/4 Sec. 20, T21S, R25E, Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge (KU 222264). 16 April 1994. Adult male.

Ouachita Map Turtle (*Gratemys ouachitensis*). Linn Co: Sec. 22, T20S, R24E, Marais des Cygnes River, Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area (KU 222268). 18 June 1994. Adult male.

River Cooter (*Pseudemys concinna*). Linn Co: Sec. 22, T20S, R24E, Marais des Cygnes River, Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area (specimen photographed and released; KU Color Slide 11136). 18 June 1994. Adult female.

#### Comments

##### Eastern Newt

The new locality reported herein is only the third known for the Eastern Newt in Linn County, represents the first voucher from the county in 44 years, and is the second published breeding population of Eastern Newts in the Marais des Cygnes River Valley. This area is a series of heavily forested ridges and a marsh, both habitats of which are necessary for the development of the terrestrial eft stage and the required habitat and breeding site for the fully aquatic adults and their larvae. The outright acquisition or conservation easement of this land would provide habitat and protect watershed quality necessary for maintaining a stable local population. Of the nine previous specimens from Miami and Linn counties

(Gloyd 1932), seven were recorded from Pigeon Lake (no longer in existence), which was located in the vicinity of the current Miami County State Lake.

#### Broadhead Skink

Based on our survey, five out of the six lizards encountered were found at sites which contained collapsed or dilapidated farm homes and associated out-buildings. Four individuals were utilizing debris from these buildings as cover and undoubtedly profit from its presence in the form of thermoregulation sites, foraging areas, potential egg deposition sites, and cover from predators. We recommend that any old building debris that poses no threat to the environment (i.e., boards, corrugated roofing tin, stones) be left on-site to provide habitat for these lizards (and many other species of wildlife).

#### Acknowledgments

We thank Ken Brunson, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for making funds available for this project. Our appreciation to Karl Karrow, Manager, Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area and La Cygne Wildlife Area, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, for his valuable contributions to the survey. Karl provided equipment, facilities, and access to lands in his care, obtained additional funds for field work and checklist production, and supplied us with valuable information on the area and its fauna. William Busby, Kansas Natural Heritage Survey, provided (KJI) with much needed maps. Dan Mulhern, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Manhattan Office, encouraged our efforts in the newly created Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge. We thank Suzanne L. Collins for her field assistance and expert photographic abilities. We also thank Emily Moriarty and Susan Lila for their assistance in the field.

#### Literature Cited

- Collins, Joseph T. 1993. *Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas. Third Edition*. University Press of Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.
- Gloyd, Howard K. 1932. The herpetological fauna of the Pigeon Lake Region, Miami County, Kansas. *Papers of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts & Letters* 15: 389–409.
- Irwin, Kelly J. 1995. *Notophthalmus viridescens*. Geographic Distribution. *Herpetological Review* 26(2): 104.

## ARTICLES

### DISAPPEARANCE OF RADIO-MONITORED TIMBER RATTLESNAKES

Henry S. Fitch

*University of Kansas Fitch Natural History Reservation  
2060 East 1600 Road  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044*

George R. Pisani

*University of Kansas Field Station & Ecological Reserves  
350 Wild Horse Drive  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044*

Venomous snakes have evolved their toxicity over countless generations, developing a system to obtain their prey without much effort and without a struggle. But in some snake groups, a secondary function has developed to protect these serpents from predators and from heavy-bodied ungulates that might kill or injure the reptiles by stepping on them. This function is perhaps carried farthest in the rattlesnakes. These heavy-bodied and slow-moving viperids have evolved an effective sematic device, the rattle, to warn away potential enemies. However, for predators that attack without heeding the warning rattle, the penalty can be death or serious and prolonged injury to the snake. Many attacks by predators upon rattlesnakes have been recorded. These may occur with an inexperienced predator, which lacks strong instinctive motivation for avoidance, or, more often, may occur with a predator that has learned the technique of manipulating the prey without being bitten.

Timber Rattlesnakes are relatively long-lived. Pisani and Fitch (2002) recaptured a scale-clipped male (subcaudals 2 left 5 right) after 24 years, and that specimen was probably at least four years old (with seven rattle segments plus button) at the time of original capture (14 October 1978). The putative age of 28 years for this specimen approaches the 30-year, 2-month longevity record for the species in captivity (Snider and Bowler, 1992). Surprisingly, colubrids of similar size may equal or surpass this longevity record: 33+ years for *Pituophis catenifer* and *Lampropeltis getula* and more than 20 years for *Pantherophis guttatus*, *P. obsoletus*, *Lampropeltis calligaster*, and *L. triangulum*.

After a successful season of trailing Timber Rattlesnakes with abdominally implanted transmitters in 2003, we suddenly lost our remaining snakes in the spring of 2004. Two immatures with small transmit-

ters were lost during hibernation when their transmitter batteries reached the end of their expected life. In another of our adult rattlesnakes (No. 96, Female), the transmitter went off the air on 11 May 2004; but neither the snake nor the transmitter was ever found, and this was long before the expected expiration date. For two other adult snakes, we found the transmitters on the ground (23 June and 8 May 2004), close to where the snakes had last been seen while they were alive. No remains of either snake were found nor any sign of struggle. Our No. 99 Male and 84 Female were lost in late May and early June 2004, and it was thought that they might have been taken by a predator, but both were rediscovered returning to hibernacula in September 2004.

A generally reduced abundance of all snakes in the hibernation area suggests the possibility of predation. In 2003, 22 Timber Rattlesnakes (besides those we equipped with radios) and more than two dozen other snakes (Copperheads, Western Rat Snakes, Northern Water Snakes) were caught and marked when they emerged. But in 2004, only five rattlesnakes and none of the other species could be found, despite intensified search. Local predators that have often been observed to prey on Timber Rattlesnakes are the Red-tailed Hawk (Bent 1937; Fitch and Bare, 1978) and the Coyote (Gier, 1968).

Pearson and Shine (2002) report the relatively frequent expulsion of intraperitoneally-implanted radiotransmitters by Australian pythons. The transmitters were expelled with feces after having passed through the intestinal wall. The authors suggested that this ability might be linked to large temporal shifts in size and activity of the alimentary tract in ambush predators. They caution the inference of predation as a cause of death of radio-tracked snakes, unless some remains of the snake can be found. Certainly,

we cannot eliminate this as an explanation for what might have happened for the two snakes whose transmitters were found on the ground.

#### Literature Cited

- Bent, A. C. 1937. Life histories of North American birds of prey. Order Falconiformes (Part 1). United States National Museum Bulletin 167, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.
- Fitch, H. S. and R. O. Bare. 1978. A field study of the Red-tailed Hawk in eastern Kansas. Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science 81: 1–13.
- Fitch, H. S., G. R. Pisani, H. W. Greene, A. F. Echelle, and M. Zerwekh. 2004. A field study of the timber rattlesnake in Leavenworth County, Kansas. Journal of Kansas Herpetology, 11: 18–24.
- Gier, R. T. 1968. Coyotes in Kansas. Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 393: 1–118.
- Peason, D. J. and R. Shine. 2002. Expulsion of intraperitoneally-implanted radiotransmitters by Australian pythons. Herpetological Review 33: 261–118.
- Pisani, G. R. and H. S. Fitch. 2002. A natural longevity record for the timber rattlesnake. Journal of Kansas Herpetology, 1(1): 15–16.
- Snider, A. T. and J. K. Bowler. 1992. Longevity of reptiles and amphibians in North American collections. Second Edition. SSAR Herpetological Circular 21: 1–40.

### PLESTIODON: A REPLACEMENT NAME FOR MOST MEMBERS OF THE GENUS *EUMECES* IN NORTH AMERICA

Hobart M. Smith

*Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology  
University of Colorado  
Boulder, Colorado 80309*

Griffith *et al.* (2000) reviewed the *Eumeces* complex and proposed that it be split into several genera, thereby restricting the name *Eumeces* to a group of North African species; its type species is one of them. However, they proposed that the ICZN be petitioned to change the type species from *Scincus pavementatus* I. Geoffroy Saint Hilaire (in E. Geoffroy Saint Hilaire and I. Geoffroy Saint Hilaire, 1827) of North Africa to *Lacerta fasciata* Linnaeus (1758) of eastern North America, thus stabilizing the name *Eumeces* with its most frequent usage in application to American species. Since Griffith *et al.* (2000), the name *Eumeces* continued to be used for North American and most Mexican species (two southern Mexican and one Central American species were placed in a new genus, *Mesoscincus*).

However, action on the petition by the ICZN was so delayed that before it could appear Schmitz *et al.* (2004) rejected the proposal for change of the type species of *Eumeces* by Griffith *et al.*, arguing that although it would stabilize the name for the American species, it would produce instability for workers dealing with North African species. They agreed that the North American group constituted a genus separate from the African one, but inasmuch as the petition for change of the type species had never been published, they concluded that the name *Eumeces* should remain attached to the latter.

The earliest generic name based on an American species of the genus *Eumeces* (*sensu lato*) is *Plestiodon* Duméril and Bibron (1839), the type species of which was subsequently designated by Fitzinger (1843) as *Lacerta quinquelineata* Linnaeus (1766). That name was long accepted as a synonym of *L. fasciata* Linnaeus (1758), which Taylor (1932a, b) showed is a complex of three very similar species. It is uncertain whether the name *L. quinquelineata* is now referable to *fasciata* or to *Scincus laticeps* Schneider (1801), revived by Taylor (1932b) as a member of the *fasciatus* complex, but there has never been any question that it applies to some member of that complex. *Plestiodon* was accepted as a valid name for North American species for many years in the 19th century, and at least as late as Stejneger and Barbour (1917).

Entangled in this nomenclatural web is the name *Pariocele* Fitzinger (1843), type species *Scincus laticeps* Schneider (1801), a member of the *fasciatus* complex; it coincidentally was proposed on the line preceding the designation of the type of *Plestiodon*. Both Griffith *et al.* (2000) and Schmitz *et al.* (2004) erroneously gave precedence to *Pariocele* Fitzinger (1843) over *Plestiodon* Duméril and Bibron (1839), despite the latter name's priority, because of the uncertainty of the identity of the type of the latter species. Over many years after it was designated,



however, its identity was in no doubt whatever; that the species was later discovered to be a complex of species, none of which are referable to any other genus, does not affect its status as a generic type (see Article 75.5 of the Code, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, 1999). Furthermore, *Pariocela* has never, except in the indicated works, been accepted as valid, whereas *Plestiodon* has a long history of acceptance.

For these reasons we recommend adoption of the name *Plestiodon* for those American species formerly referred to *Eumeces*, except for those now placed in *Mesoscincus*.

#### Literature Cited

Geoffroy Saint Hilaire, E. and I. Geoffroy Saint Hilaire. 1827. Description des reptiles qui se trouvent en Égypt. Pp. 115-160, *in* Description de l'Égypt, ou recueil des observations et des recherches qui ont été faites en Égypte pendant l'expédition de l'Armée Française. Histoire Naturelle. Tome premier. Paris, Imprimerie Impériale.

Griffith, H. A. Ngo and R. W. Murphy. 2000. A cladistic evaluation of the cosmopolitan genus *Eumeces* Wiegmann (Reptilia, Squamata, Scincidae). Russian Journal of Herpetology 7: 1–16.

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. 1999. International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London. 306 pp.

Schmitz, A., P. Mausfeld and D. Embert. 2004. Molecular studies on the genus *Eumeces* Wiegmann, 1834: phylogenetic relationships and taxonomic implications. Hamadryad 28: 73–89.

Schneider, J. G. 1799–1801. Historiae amphibiorum naturalis et literariae. Jena, Frommann. 2 Vols.

Stejneger, L. and T. Barbour. 1917. A Check List of North American Amphibians and Reptiles. Harvard University Press, Cambridge. iv + 125 pp.

Taylor, E. H. 1932a. *Eumeces inexpectatus*: A new American lizard of the family Scincidae. University of Kansas Science Bulletin 20: 251–258.

Taylor, E. H. 1932b. *Eumeces laticeps*: A neglected species of skink. University of Kansas Science Bulletin 20: 263–272.



# The Kansas Herpetological Society

The *Kansas Herpetological Society* is a non-profit organization established in 1974 and designed to encourage education and dissemination of scientific information through the facilities of the Society; to encourage conservation of wildlife in general and of amphibians, turtles and reptiles in Kansas in particular; and to achieve closer cooperation and understanding between herpetologists, so that they may work together in common cause.

## Membership

All interested persons are invited to become members in the Society. Membership dues per calendar year are \$15.00 (U.S., Regular), \$20.00 (*outside* North America, Regular), and \$20.00 (Contributing) payable to the KHS. Send all dues to: KHS Treasurer (see inside front cover). All members are entitled to participate in Society functions, have voting privileges, and are eligible for Society grants and scholarships. They receive copies of the *Journal of Kansas Herpetology*, as well as other publications co-sponsored by the Society, either gratis or at a discount.

## Editorial Policy

The *Journal of Kansas Herpetology*, issued quarterly, publishes peer-reviewed manuscripts and notes dealing with the biology of amphibians, turtles and reptiles. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the month of issuance. All manuscripts become the sole possession of the Society, and will not be returned unless arrangements are made with the Editor. Pen and ink illustrations and photographs are also welcomed. Illustrations and photographs will be returned to the author only upon request. The *Journal of Kansas Herpetology* uses the common names standardized nationwide by Collins & Taggart (2002).

## The Howard K. Gloyd-Edward H. Taylor Scholarship

The Gloyd-Taylor Scholarship is presented annually by the Kansas Herpetological Society to an outstanding herpetology student. Nominations for this award are open to any KHS member enrolled in an accredited educational institution in Kansas or any KHS member enrolled in any accredited educational institution outside of Kansas. The scholarship is \$100.00 and is awarded on the basis of potential for contributing to the science of herpetology. Students from grade school through university are eligible.

Nominations should include typewritten details of the nominee's qualifications, plus name and address of the nominee and nominator. Self-nomination is encouraged. If self-nominated, a letter of reference from an academician is required.

Nominations should include, but are not limited to, academic record, herpetological activities, and future plans in herpetology. Academic record should address schools attended and an indication of academic performance in each (e.g., grade point average, teacher evaluations, courses completed). Herpetological activities should include a brief narrative that details experiences and activities that demonstrate a long-term interest in herpetology, and documents accomplishments in herpetological study. Future plans in herpetology should include a statement, not to exceed one-page, written by the student about his/her future interests and plans.

Applicants may include an optional appendix with photographs, awards, newspaper articles, reports written by the student, or other documents relevant to herpetological activities.

Nominations should be sent to the KHS Awards Committee Chair, and must be postmarked by 15 September. The scholarship winner will be announced at the annual meeting in November. New applications will be accepted after 1 January of the following year.

## The Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes

KHS members only are eligible to apply for The Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes. The recipient of the grant (minimally \$100.00) will be selected by the KHS Awards Committee. If no qualified proposals are submitted, no award will be made for that year.

The KHS Awards Committee will entertain proposals for research on Kansas snakes. The proposal must be limited to ten typed pages, and should include, but not be limited to the following: title, name of researcher, contact information, abstract, introduction and justification, objectives or hypotheses, materials and methods, significance of research and possible results, literature cited, timetable, and proposed budget. The research must be conducted on one or more native Kansas snake species. Additionally, a majority of the field work or observations must be proposed to occur in Kansas, or the data must be proposed to be collected, at least in part, on Kansas specimens.

Proposals should be sent to the KHS Awards Committee Chair, and must be postmarked by 15 September. The grant recipient will be announced at the annual meeting in November. New applications will be accepted after 1 January of the following year.

## The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology

Conditions and Stipulations: The Award shall be known, presented, and portrayed as the *Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology* and may not be changed for any reason, nor added to or merged with any other award, prize, or gift. The Award is established in recognition of the scientific and photographic achievements of Suzanne L. Collins and Joseph T. Collins, whose life-long study and conservation of the native amphibians, turtles, and reptiles of Kansas is amply demonstrated in their extensive and excellent writings and photography, both academic and popular, about these animals.

*The Collins Award* shall be presented no more than once each year. The Award may not be divided, but must be presented in full to a single individual. The Award consists of a trust-in-perpetuity, owned and invested by the *The Center for North American Herpetology*, and part of the interest from the trust is annually forwarded to the *Kansas Herpetological Society*, should they choose to make an award in that year.

Recipients of *The Collins Award* are chosen by the *Kansas Herpetological Society Awards Committee*.

In even-numbered years, the Award is bestowed upon an individual who, in the preceding two calendar years, had published a paper of academic excellence on the systematics, ecology, or conservation of a native species of Kansas amphibian, turtle, and/or reptile in the *Journal of Kansas Herpetology*, *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science*, *Herpetological Review*, or the *Journal of Herpetology*, and/or presented a lecture of excellence on the systematics, ecology, or conservation of a native species of Kansas amphibian, turtle, and/or reptile at the KHS Annual Meeting. To qualify for the Award, a portion of the field work or observations must have occurred in Kansas, or the systematic data must have been based in part on Kansas specimens. In odd-numbered years, the Award is bestowed upon an individual who was chosen the best in a juried competition featuring the art of photography in portraying amphibians, turtles, and/or reptiles, said competition to take place under the auspices and on the occasion of the annual meeting of the *Kansas Herpetological Society*. To qualify for the Award, the art work must portray a species native to Kansas.

*The Collins Award* is minimally \$1000.00, and is neither a grant nor a scholarship. No nominations or applications can be made for it.

**KHS Advertisement Policy:** As decreed by the KHS Executive Council, the *Journal of Kansas Herpetology* will accept advertisements at the rate of \$25.00 per quarter page per issue, up to a one-page maximum per issue. No advertisements for live animals or parts thereof will be accepted.

KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
5438 SW 12TH TERRACE, APT. 4  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66604

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044  
PERMIT NO. 222