

NOTES ON THE HERPETOLOGY OF PAYNE COUNTY,  
OKLAHOMA<sup>1</sup>

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Herpetological records and collections have been accumulating in the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College Department of Zoology for the past 10 years, chiefly through the efforts of staff members and students. Interested citizens of Payne County have contributed materially by donating incidentally encountered specimens. Since there have been relatively few lists of amphibians and reptiles from Oklahoma, it is hoped that the present paper will be useful to workers interested in the zoogeography of the 6 families and 14 species of amphibians and 11 families and 45 forms of reptiles listed herein. Specimens of some forms have been deposited in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology and the University of Oklahoma Museum of Zoology; the remainder occur in collections of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College Department of Zoology.

Twelve forms of previously recorded amphibians and reptiles of Payne County include 3 species of amphibians and 3 reptilian forms (Ortenburger 1926) and 1 amphibian and 6 reptiles assigned to this county by Smith and Leonard (1934). With the exception of *Scaphiopus hammondi* and *Gastrophryne carolinensis* (omitted from this list for reasons indicated below) these previously reported forms are indicated by an asterisk. Ortenburger (1930) reported a list of amphibians and reptiles from a neighboring county (Pawnee).

The nomenclature used in the list follows Stejneger and Barbour (1939) with the exception of *Leptotyphlops dulcis dissectus*, specimens of which were identified by Klauber, and *Kinosternon flavescens flavescens*, *Pseudemys scripta elegans*, and *Pseudemys floridana hieroglyphica*, which were identified by Hartweg. Species marked with 2 asterisks have not been found in Payne County; they are included since they have been taken in neighboring counties and may be expected to occur here.

Specimens of doubtful identity have been submitted, as occasions arose, to various authorities for identification or confirmation. The following have generously given their assistance: the late F. N. Blanchard, Helen T. Gaige, H. K. Gloyd, Norman Hartweg, M. L. Klauber, A. I. Ortenburger, and K. P. Schmidt.

## AMBYSTOMIDAE

*Ambystoma texanum* (Matthes). Common in upland ponds where it breeds in February and March. Metamorphosis occurs in July. A pond in May 1940 yielded large numbers of larvae and on July 18 one larva and one nearly metamorphosed specimen were obtained.

\*\**Ambystoma tigrinum* (Green). Has been taken in Kay and Osage Counties.

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## SCAPHIOPODIDAE

*Scaphiopus bombifrons* Cope. Large numbers breed in temporary pools, and in terrace and roadside ditches after rains of any consequence, from early May to the middle of July. Specimens reported by Ortenburger (1926) as *S. hammondii* are probably referable to this species.

## BUFONIDAE

*Bufo americanus americanus* (Holbrook). Only a few specimens have been taken; it seems to prefer scrub oak areas.

*Bufo cognatus* (Say). Our most common prairie toad; breeds in temporary ponds in June and July.

\**Bufo woodhousii* Girard. Frequently found breeding in the same pools with *Bufo cognatus*. Abundant.

## HYLIDAE

*Aeris orepitans* Baird. Abundant in streams and ponds of permanent nature.

*Pseudacris nigrata clarkii* (Baird). Found breeding in temporary pools from early May to mid-June. Common.

*Pseudacris streckeri* Wright and Wright. At times this species has been very abundant; however, in years when snows and rains have been meager in February and March there has been very little breeding activity. Late spring rains seem to exert no influence.

*Hyla versicolor versicolor* (Le Conte). A single specimen from Stillwater.

## RANIDAE

*Rana catesbeiana* Shaw. Common in permanent and semipermanent waters.

*Rana pipiens* Schreber. Concurrent with the above species.

\*\**Rana areolata* Baird and Girard. Two specimens collected eighteen miles northwest of Pawhuska on the Chapman Ranch fit the key (Goin and Netting 1940:146) for *R. a. circulosa* Rice and Davis.

## BREVICIPITIDAE

*Gastrophryne olivacea* (Hallowell). The narrow-mouthed toads breed in June and July after heavy rains. They are often found under stones and other objects. *G. carolinensis* reported by Ortenburger (1926) is probably referable to *G. olivacea*.

## IGUANIDAE

\**Crotaphytus collaris collaris* (Say). The collared lizard is abundant in rocky areas.

*Sceloporus undulatus consobrinus* (Baird and Girard). Abundant in wooded areas.

*Phrynosoma cornutum* (Harlan). Horned lizards are abundant and the young are first seen in early summer.

## ANGUIDAE

*Ophisaurus ventralis* (Linné). Six specimens have been collected. The glass snake is usually found in moist places below ponds and springs.

## TEIIDAE

\**Cnemidophorus sexlineatus* (Linné). Abundant everywhere.

## SCINCIDAE

\**Leiopisma unicolor* (Harlan). Fairly common in fringe forests. *L. laterale* reported by Ortenburger (1926).

*Eumeces fasciatus* (Linné). Common; often nests in decayed logs. On July 13, 1940, a nest with five eggs guarded by the female was found under a rock.

*Eumeces obsoletus* (Baird and Girard). Frequently abundant around old buildings.

*Eumeces septentrionalis* (Baird). One specimen taken 2 miles south of Stillwater.

## LEPTOTYPHLOPIDAE

*Leptotyphlops dulcis dissectus* (Baird and Girard). Three specimens were taken in Stillwater and four from a rocky knoll five miles west of the city. One was incidentally unearthed in a garden.

## COLUBRIDAE

*Diadophis punctatus arnyi* (Kennicott). Our specimens were all taken in rocky, wooded places.

*Heterodon contortrix* (Linné). Two specimens found in prairie communities. Rare.

*Heterodon nasicus* (Baird and Girard). A single specimen taken in a garden, city of Stillwater.

*Ophedrys aestivus* (Linné). Fairly common in fringe forests.

*Coluber constrictor flaviventris* (Say). Common in wooded areas.

*Coluber flagellum flagellum* (Shaw). Common in prairie habitats.

*Elaphe laeta* (Baird and Girard). Four specimens from scrub oak areas and fringe forests.

*Elaphe obsoleta confinis* (Baird and Girard). Quite common in fringe forests.

*Pituophis sayi sayi* (Schlegel). Common in prairie communities. A large female, taken July 15, 1940, contained eggs with embryos.

*Lampropeltis calligaster* (Harlan). Fairly common in prairie and fringe forest situations. One was taken in the city of Stillwater.

*Lampropeltis getulus holbrooki* (Stejneger). Common in fringe forest and prairie communities.

\**Sonora episcopa* (Kennicott). Not unusual to take 50 in an afternoon's work on rocky hillsides. *S. semiannulata* reported by Smith and Leonard (1934).

*Natrix rhombifera rhombifera* (Hallowell). Common in ponds and streams.

\**Natrix erythrogaster transversa* (Hallowell). Common in ponds and streams. Reported as *N. transversa* by Smith and Leonard (1934).

*Natrix grahami* (Baird and Girard). Uncommon; in ponds.

*Storeria dekayi* (Holbrook). Fairly common in fringe forests.

*Haldea striatula* (Linné). Several specimens taken on south slope of a rocky woodland near Ripley.

*Thamnophis sauritus proximus* (Say). Only one specimen has been taken in Payne County.

*Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis* (Say). Commonly found near ponds and streams.

*Tropidoclonion lineatum* (Hallowell). One specimen from a residential basement in Stillwater and three from a prairie community in Noble County.

\**Tantilla gracilis* Baird and Girard. Common on rocky hillsides.

\*\**Tantilla nigriceps* Kennicott. Reported by Smith and Leonard.

#### CROTALIDAE

*Agkistrodon mokasen laticinctus* Gloyd and Conant. Common in rocky areas and scrub oak areas.

*Crotalus horridus horridus* (Linné). A farmer reported having killed 70 on his farm in a few days. He later partly substantiated his story with a specimen from this den site.

\*\**Sistrurus catenatus catenatus* (Rafinesque). One specimen—a gift of Tulsa Zoological Garden—of three taken in Osage County.

#### KINOSTERNIDAE

*Kinosternon flavescens flavescens* (Agassiz). Common in some ponds.

\*\**Sternotherus odoratus* (Latreille). Osage County.

#### CHELYDRIDAE

*Chelydra serpentina* (Linné). Common in ponds and streams.

#### TESTUDINIDAE

\**Terrapene ornata* (Agassiz). Abundant in prairie communities.

\**Terrapene triunguis* (Agassiz). Common in fringe forests.

\*\**Graptemys pseudogeographica pseudogeographica* (Gray). Taken from Black Bear and Red Rock Creeks, Noble County.

*Pseudemys scripta elegans* (Wied). Common in creeks and larger ponds.

\*\**Pseudemys floridana hieroglyphica* (Holbrook). One specimen from Noble County.

#### TRIONYCHIDAE

*Amyda mutica* (Le Sueur). One specimen was taken on January 31, 1940, from the Cimarron River about 3 miles east of Ripley. It was found in water about one foot deep and with a covering of ice to a thickness of about 6 inches. This was the most severe winter experienced in Oklahoma in many years.

\*\**Amyda spinifera spinifera* (Le Sueur). One specimen from Big Hominy Creek in Osage County.

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