
**Amphibians and Reptiles Known from
Pontotoc County, Oklahoma**

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The need for a compilation of data on the amphibians and reptiles of Pontotoc County is evident when it is realized that no such study has ever been undertaken. Recent distributional accounts on the herpetology of Oklahoma (Webb, 1952; Carpenter, 1954 and 1958; McCoy, 1960a and 1960b; and Carter, 1966) pointedly verify that this area of the state has long been neglected by serious students of vertebrate fauna. Such studies provide a contribution to a better understanding of herpetological relationships throughout the state.

This is not considered a terminal report, as further field collecting is expected to add to the 58 forms reported here. A larger series of specimens is needed to make adequate subspecific diagnosis for six of the species reported. Ecological and ethological studies for many of the forms in this area could add much needed information for a better understanding of relationships and distribution patterns in the state.

We express appreciation to R. G. Webb of Texas Western College who examined many of the reptiles, and to D. M. Davis of Duke University who examined all specimens of *Fumeces*. McCoy (1958) has presented an ecological description of the county.

In the following annotated list we present localities and dates for those forms not previously reported in the literature or if only a few specimens are available. Literature citations are given for those forms previously reported. An asterisk(*) precedes those reported for the first time. Unnumbered items were added after press time.

AMPHIBIA: CAUDATA

Ambystomatidae

1. *Ambystoma texanum* (Matthes). Small-mouthed salamander. Several larvae from temporary terrace pools 7 miles NE of Ada (W. A. Carter, 19 June 1965)

SALIENTIA

Pelobatidae

**Scaphiopus hurteri* Strecker. Hurter's spadefoot. Several taken at night during rain (W. A. Carter, J. C. Ligon, G. Saunders, 12 April 1967).

Bufo

1. *Bufo terrestris charlesmithi* Bragg. Dwarf American toad. Common, especially in eastern one-half of county.

*2. *Bufo cognatus* Say. Great Plains toad. A single specimen from 4 miles NE of Ada (D. C. Flowers, 10 July 1966).

3. *Bufo w. woodhousei* Girard. Rocky Mountain toad. Common county-wide.

Hylidae

4. *Hyla versicolor* Le Conte. Gray treefrog. Bragg (1958) shows the county in an area of an intergrading population of *H. v. versicolor* Le Conte and *H. v. chrysoscelis* Cope. Most frequently collected in the eastern part of the county in woodlands associated with streams or ponds.

5. *Acris gryllus blanchardi* Harper. Blanchard's cricket frog. Very abundant in any aquatic habitats county-wide.

6. *Pseudacris clarki* (Baird). Spotted chorus frog. Fifteen specimens from 7 miles NE of Ada (W. A. Carter; 28 May 1964, 11 April 1965, 24 April 1966).

7. *Pseudacris streckeri* Wright and Wright. Strecker's chorus frog. Specimens from January to April and one in September.

Ranidae

Rana a. areolata Baird and Girard. Southern crayfish frog. Bragg and Smith (1943).

*8. *Rana clamitans* Latreille. Bronze frog. A single specimen from spring-fed Sheep Creek, a tributary of Clear Boggy, 2 miles S of Fittstown (W. A. Carter and R. Cox, 2 June 1966). Nearest locality records are for *R. c. clamitans* from Johnston County (Taylor, 1965). However, more specimens are needed before a subspecific determination is made for Pontotoc County.

9. *Rana pipiens* Schreber. Leopard frog. Common, county-wide, in any aquatic habitats. Subspecific determination not attempted.

10. *Rana catesbeiana* Shaw. Bullfrog. Common, county-wide, in aquatic habitats.

Microhylidae

11. *Microhyla carolinensis olivacea* (Hallowell). Great Plains narrow-mouthed toad. Probably county-wide. Specimens from open grasslands and upland post oak-blackjack oak woodlands.

REPTILES: CHELONIA

Chelydridae

1. *Chelydra s. serpentina* (Linnaeus). Common snapping turtle. (Webb, 1952) Common county-wide.

2. *Macrochelys temminckii* (Troost). Alligator snapping turtle. The only record is that of Webb (1952) based on a photograph (*Oklahoma Game and Fish News*, May 1951, p. 12) of an "86-pound turtle from Blue River, Pontotoc County."

Kinosternidae

3. *Sternotherus odoratus* (Latreille). Stinkpot. Carter (1966) reported a single specimen from the county. Several were taken from Wintersmith (Ada City) Lake in Ada (18 November 1966) as the lake was drained in a fish management program.

*4. *Kinosternon f. flavescens* (Agassiz). Yellow mud turtle. Three from 10 miles W of Ada in temporary terrace pools (T. G. Henry, 8 May 1966).

5. *Kinosternon subrubrum hippocrepi* Gray. Mississippi mud turtle. (Carter, 1966) Specimens from eastern part of county only.

Emydidae

6. *Terrapene o. ornata* (Agassiz). Ornate box turtle. (Carter, 1966) County-wide, more common in open upland areas.

7. *Terrapene carolina triunguis* (Agassiz). Three-toed box turtle. (Webb, 1952) Common county-wide.

8. *Pseudemys scripta elegans* (Wied). Red-eared turtle. (Carter, 1966) Common county-wide in ponds.

*9. *Pseudemys floridana hoyi* (Agassiz). Missouri slider. Several specimens, both adults and young, from Wintersmith Lake in Ada (18 November 1966).

Trionychidae

10. *Trionyx spinifer hartwegi* (Conant and Goin). Western spiny softshell. (Carter, 1966) Only three specimens from northern part of county drained by South Canadian River.

*11. *Trionyx spinifer emoryi* (Agassiz). Texas spiny softshell. Only two specimens from southern part of county in Clear Boggy Creek drainage area. One from 3.5 miles S of Ada (J. Maughn, 9 October 1965) and one from Wintersmith Lake in Ada (W. A. Carter, 18 November 1966).

*12. *Trionyx muticus* (LeSueur). Smooth softshell. Several taken from shallow pools along South Canadian River (T.S.E. Lewis and J. Delso et al., 19 July 1966).

LACERTILIA

Iguanidae

1. *Crotaphytus c. collaris* (Say). Eastern collared lizard. (Webb, 1952) Common in rocky areas.

2. *Sceloporus undulatus* (Latreille). Fence lizard. (Webb, 1952 and McCoy, 1960a and 1961). McCoy designated the specimen examined from this county "... typical of *S. u. hyacinthinus* (Greer) but on geographical grounds probably comes from an intergradient population." An adequate series may show *S. u. garmani* Boulenger in the northwestern corner of the county along the South Canadian River.

3. *Phrynosoma cornutum* (Harlan). Texas horned lizard. (Carter, 1966) Known from areas with sparse cover.

Scincidae

4. *Lygosoma laterale* (Say). Ground skink. (Carter, 1966) Common county-wide.

5. *Eumeces fasciatus* (Linnaeus). Five-lined skink. (Carter, 1966) Common county-wide in woodlands.

*6. *Eumeces obsoletus* (Baird and Girard). Great Plains skink. One from 5 miles S of Ada (W. T. Frye, 20 April 1966) and 4 from 5 miles S of Fittstown (J. R. Chowins *et al.*, 9 May 1966). All in the limestone outcroppings.

*7. *Eumeces septentrionalis obtusirostris* (Bocourt). Southern prairie skink. Two miles SE of Ada (W. A. Carter and S. Pierce, 3 April 1965); 10 miles W of Ada (J. L. Arter, 25 April 1966); 0.5 miles SE of Ada (R. Cox, 30 May 1966).

*8. *Eumeces laticeps* (Schneider). Broad-headed skink. One from 2 miles S of Ada on bridge over Lake (= upper Clear Boggy) Creek (J. Craig, 16 May 1966).

Telidae

9. *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus* (Linnaeus). Six-lined racerunner. (Carter, 1966) County-wide in open sandy areas.

Anguidae

10. *Ophisaurus a. attenuatus* Baird. Western slender glass lizard. (Carter, 1966). Few scattered records from grasslands and woodland-grassland ecotone areas.

SERPENTES

Leptotyphlopidae

*1. *Leptotyphlops d. dulcis* (Baird and Girard). Plains blind snake. Two from 5 miles S of Ada in limestone outcrop area (J. L. Arter, C. W. Johnson and V. H. Harmon, 20 May 1966). Both with anterior supralabial entire on both sides.

2. *Leptotyphlops dulcis dissecta* (Cope). New Mexico blind snake. (Webb, 1952) A second specimen recently taken from the same area, 5 miles S of Fittstown in limestone area (J. R. Chowins, 6 April 1966).

**Leptotyphlops d. dulcis* × *L. dulcis dissecta*. Hybrid blind snake. Two specimens just S of Fittstown (V. H. Harmon, 8 April 1967), one with supralabials 2 R, 1 L, the other 1 R, 2 L.

Colubridae

3. *Coluber constrictor flaviventris* Say. Eastern yellow-bellied racer. (McCoy, 1960b) Common county-wide.

4. *Diadophis punctatus arnyi* Kennicott. Prairie ringneck snake. (Carter, 1966) Very common county-wide, more frequent in woodlands and woodland-grassland ecotones.

**Elaphe guttata emoryi* Baird and Girard. Great Plains rat snake. One from 10 mi. SW of Ada (G. Morgan, 27 October 1967).

5. *Elaphe o. obsoleta* (Say). Black rat snake. (Carter, 1966) Common county-wide, especially in woodlands and near farm buildings.

6. *Haldea striatula* (Linnaeus). Rough earth snake. (Carter, 1966) Common county-wide in open woodlands.

*7. *Haldea valeriae elegans* (Kennicott). Western earth snake. Two specimens: 1 from 8 miles NE of Ada (J. E. Caton, 1 May 1965) and 1 from 5 miles S of Fittstown (J. C. Ligon, 6 April 1966).

8. *Heterodon p. platyrhinos* (Latreille). Eastern hognose snake. (Carter, 1966) Very frequently encountered; only four specimens collected.

9. *Lampropeltis c. calligaster* (Harlan). Prairie kingsnake. (Carter, 1966). Collected in grasslands and ecotone areas county-wide.

10. *Lampropeltis getulus holbrooki* Stejneger. Speckled kingsnake. Collected in woodlands and ecotone areas county-wide.

11. *Masticophis f. flagellum* (Shaw). Eastern coachwhip. (Webb, 1952) Common county-wide in open areas.

12. *Natrix r. rhombifera* (Hallowell). Diamond-backed water snake. (Carter, 1966) Fairly common in aquatic habitats county-wide.

13. *Natrix erythrogaster transversa* (Hallowell). Blotched water snake. (Carter, 1966) Very abundant in aquatic habitats county-wide.

14. *Opheodrys aestivus majalis* Burger. Western rough green snake. (Carter, 1966) Most commonly collected in wooded or brushy areas near ponds and streams.

15. *Pituophis catenifer sayi* (Schlegel). Bullsnake. (Carter, 1966) A second specimen recently collected from 8 miles ENE of Fittstown (F. Vincent, 22 August 1966)

16. *Sonora e. episcopa* (Kennicott). Great Plains ground snake. (Webb, 1952) County-wide, most common in limestone outcrops. Most are unicolored of red-brown or gray-brown; only two with black transverse bars; one with the bright red-orange ground color.

**Hypsiglena torquata texana* Stejneger. Texas night snake. Two from Byrd's Mill Spring area, S of Fittstown (V. H. Harmon, 14 April 1967; W. A. Peek, 25 June 1967). This represents a significant eastward extension of known range in the state.

17. *Storeria dekayi texana* Trapido. Texas brown snake. (Carter, 1966) The five specimens collected are from open wooded areas.

*18. *Tantilla gracilis* Baird and Girard. Flat-headed snake. Insufficient series available to make subspecific diagnosis. From Webb (1952) and Kirn et al. (1949), the county is probably an overlap area for *T. g. gracilis* Baird and Girard and *T. g. hallowelli* Cope.

*19. *Thamnophis sauritus proximus* Say. Western ribbon snake. Several specimens available from over the county, mostly associated with aquatic habitats.

*20. *Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis* Say. Red-sided garter snake. The few specimens available are from aquatic habitats.

21. *Tropidoclonion lineatum annexans* Ramsey. Central lined snake. (Carter, 1966). All six specimens available are from Ada.

Crotalidae

*22. *Ancistrodon contortrix* (Linnaeus). Copperhead. In view of the 8 specimens at hand, we tentatively feel it best to regard all as intergrades of *A. c. laticinctus* Gloyd and Conant and *A. c. mokeson* Daudin. Taken in rocky wooded areas.

**Crotalus horridus* Linnaeus. Timber rattler. One taken on Rhynes Ranch in SE corner of county (C. W. Braun, 30 March 1968). Middorsal scale count (25 rows) and color pattern suggests *C. h. atricaudatus*; however, we feel subspecific determination unwise until a large series is available.

*23. *Crotalus atrox* Baird and Girard. Western diamondback. We have one specimen from the limestone area 9 miles SE of Pittstown (F. Vincent, 22 March 1966). Several other larger specimens have been taken there but were not preserved.

24. *Sistrurus miliarius streckeri* Gloyd. Western pigmy rattler. No specimens taken other than the one reported by Carter (1966)

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