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Front Cover: The eggs of an Eastern Narrowmouth Toad (*Gastrophryne carolinensis*) from Cherokee County, Kansas. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins, Lawrence, Kansas.

Journal of Kansas Herpetology

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KHS BUSINESS

KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

35th Annual Meeting

7–9 November 2008

William Penn Hall

Friends University, Wichita, Kansas

Host of the Meeting

Patrick Mathews

Meeting Sponsors

The McPherson Family Trust

JTC Enterprises

Note to speakers: Please plan your talks for no more than 12 minutes with an additional 3 minutes for questions from the audience. The lecture room has a computer for powerpoint presentations only (if you plan to use 35 mm slides, please bring your own projector). Please bring your visuals on a CD. Speakers should load their talk onto the computer no later than the break session before their talk. Any questions about equipment or meeting facilities should be emailed to jcollins@ku.edu

Venue and Lodging: All scientific paper sessions for the KHS 35th Annual Meeting will be held in Room 100 in William Penn Hall on the Friends University campus, Wichita, Kansas, on 8-9 November 2008. There are many motels in Wichita – Google them or go to the KHS web site. KHS members are encouraged to patronize the Hampton Inn (3800 West Kellogg Avenue; call 316-945-4100), which is in close proximity to Friends University. We have arranged a room rate of \$89.00 per night at the Hampton Inn, but you must make your reservations no later than 10 October 2008 to get that rate. Lodging arrangements will not be made by the KHS.

Registration: Register in William Penn Hall at Friends University with the KHS Treasurer on Saturday and Sunday: Students (9th Grade through 12th Grade) \$5.00 per person; all others \$10.00 per person. K through 8th Grade are admitted free.

KHS AUCTION. The annual KHS auction will be held on Saturday night (8 November) in the Education Center auditorium at the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita. All proceeds from the auction go to the KHS. BEER, SOFT DRINKS, and SNACKS WILL BE FREE.

ZOO BOOK SALES. The well-known and highly esteemed book seller, Eric Thiss, will display his tremendous diversity of herpetological titles in Room 127 of William Penn Hall, Friends University. Buy your favorite books, new and old. Eric is a generous contributor to the KHS auction.

ART EXHIBIT. A retrospective exhibit of herpetological artwork by the esteemed and well-known artist and former KHS president, John Lokke, will be on display in Room 127 of William Penn Hall (next to Zoo Book Sales and near the live exhibit). Come and view the artistic achievements of one of our own.

LIVE EXHIBIT. A live exhibit of native Kansas herpetofauna has been assembled and will be available in Room 111 of William Penn Hall for viewing and photography.

SPECIAL OFFER. The first-ever KHS snake bags will be offered to meeting participants at the special price of \$10.00 per bag. Carefully hand-crafted and double-stitched, these brilliant orange field sacks stand out in the field; you won't lose your catch unless you lose your glasses. All proceeds go to KHS.

FRIDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2008

7:00 pm to 11:00 pm: KHS SOCIAL at the River City Brewing Company in Old Town at 150 North Mosley Street, Wichita, Kansas. Come talk to other herpetologists and discuss the creatures with which we are so obsessed. Tell us about them. Drink beer. Eat. Sing. Kiss. Boogie. Humor is appreciated.

SATURDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2008

8:00 am to 4:00 pm Registration for both days: Mary Kate Baldwin (KHS Secretary) and Eric Kessler (KHS Treasurer) in William Penn Hall on the Friends University campus. Free coffee, juice, and donuts.

9:00 am Opening remarks by Dan Carpenter, KHS President
Welcome by Patrick Mathews, Friends University

Scientific Paper Session 1 in Room 100, William Penn Hall, Friends University
Moderator: George D. Potts, Friends University, Wichita, Kansas
9:15 am KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Ronald M. Bonett, University of Tulsa, Oklahoma
9:45 am to 10:15 am Presentations

Scientific Paper Session 2 in Room 100, William Penn Hall, Friends University
Moderator: Mindy Walker, Rockhurst University, Kansas City, Missouri
10:30 am to 11:45 am Presentations

LUNCH: 11:45 am to 1:00 pm (at the restaurant of your choice)

Scientific Paper Session 3 in Room 100, William Penn Hall, Friends University
Moderator: Dwight R. Platt, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas
1:10 pm to 2:45 pm Presentations

Scientific Paper Session 4 in Room 100, William Penn Hall, Friends University
Moderator: Eddie R. Stegall, Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita, Kansas
3:00 pm to 4:15 pm Presentations

4:15 pm KHS General Business Meeting with KHS President Dan Carpenter presiding in Room 100 in William Penn Hall on the Friends University campus.

Introduction of current KHS officers by Dan Carpenter
KHS Treasurer's Report for 2007 by Eric Kessler
KHS Secretary's Report for 2007 by Mary Kate Baldwin
KHS Editor's Report for 2007 by Travis W. Taggart
KHS Historian's Report for 2007 by Suzanne L. Collins
KHS President-Elect Dan Johnson: Report on Plans for the 36th Annual KHS Meeting at Overland Park, Kansas, in 2009.

Election of KHS Officers for 2009. The KHS Nominating Committee is composed of Joseph T. Collins (Kansas Biological Survey, Lawrence), and David Oldham (Pittsburg State University), and Eva Horne (Kansas State University), and offers the following slate of candidates:

For President

Dan Johnson, Overland Park, Kansas

Serving as president-elect during 2008, and automatically assumes the KHS presidency on 1 January 2009.

For President-Elect (unopposed)

Kathy Ellis, Wakarusa, Kansas

For Treasurer (unopposed)

Eric Kessler, Blue Valley North High School, Overland Park

For Secretary (unopposed)

Mary Kate Baldwin, Topeka Collegiate School

Announcement of the results of the KHS election by the Elector, Mary Kate Baldwin.

KHS Business Meeting adjourns sometime between 4:30 and 5:00 pm. Take a dinner break at the restaurant of your choice. Then proceed to the Education Center auditorium at Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita (doors open at 6:30 pm) where the kegs of free beer will be tapped. Soft drinks and snacks are also free.

SATURDAY EVENING, 8 NOVEMBER 2008

Education Center auditorium, Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita, Kansas
6:30 pm KHS Awards Ceremony

Presentation of the Howard Kay Gloyd-Edward Harrison Taylor Scholarship for 2008 by Dan Carpenter (KHS President).

Presentation of the Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes for 2007 by Ginny Weatherman (KHS Past-President).

Presentation of *The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology* for 2008 by Daniel D. Fogell (KHS Awards Committee). The recipient of *The Collins Award* receives a commemorative memento and a check for \$1000.00.

7:00 pm, the KHS Auction will be conducted at the Education Center auditorium of the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita by Joseph T. Collins, ably assisted by KHS Secretary Mary Kate Baldwin and KHS Treasurer Eric Kessler, and featuring many breath-taking books and other goodies. The KHS takes cash, credit cards, and checks. Get a bidding number before the auction commences. Bid vigorously, and support the KHS.

SUNDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2008

8:00 am Registration for participants that did not register on Saturday: Mary Kate Baldwin (KHS Secretary) and Eric Kessler (KHS Treasurer) in William Penn Hall, Friends University, Wichita, Kansas. Free coffee, juice, and donuts will be available.

Scientific Paper Session 5 in Room 100, William Penn Hall, Friends University
Moderator: David Oldham, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas
8:30 am Presentations

Break 10:15 am

Scientific Paper Session 6 in Room 100, William Penn Hall, Friends University
Moderator: Dan Johnson, Overland Park, Kansas
10:30 am Presentations

Presentation of the first *George Toland Award* for 2008 by S. Ross McNearney, representing one of our esteemed meeting sponsors, the *McPherson Family Trust*. This award will be given for the best paper presented at the meeting by a *KHS student member* on the ecology of North American amphibians, reptiles, and/or turtles. The KHS Awards Committee will select the winner. The recipient must be present to receive the commemorative certificate and a check for \$100.00, co-sponsored by the KHS and *The Center for North American Herpetology*.

ADJOURNMENT

Have a safe trip home. See you on 6-8 November 2009 in Overland Park, Kansas, for the 36th Annual KHS Meeting.

35TH ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE

Dan Carpenter (Chairperson), James H. Marlett, Patrick Mathews, Suzanne L. Collins & Joseph T. Collins

Note: *The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology* will be given at this KHS 36th Annual Meeting at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, to the KHS member judged to have published the best paper on a native species of the Kansas herpetofauna. The KHS Awards Committee (Daniel D. Fogell, Travis W. Taggart & Walter E. Meshaka, Jr.) will select the recipient from presentations made and papers published during 2006 and 2007. During odd-numbered years (photography competition), only KHS members are eligible. During even-numbered years (scientific presentations or publications), candidates are strongly encouraged to join the KHS, because preference will be given to KHS members.

Program Note: ** indicates a candidate for *The Collins Award* for 2010. *** indicates a candidate for *The Toland Award* for 2008.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 35th annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society will be held 8-9 November 2008 in William Penn Hall on the campus of Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. Effective immediately, the Society is accepting titles for talks to be presented at the meeting.

The KHS annual meeting provides a opportunity for herpetologists and other individuals who have an intellectual interest in amphibians, reptiles, and turtles to come together for scientific lectures and friendly intellectual discussion. There is ample opportunity for socializing in a collegial and supportive atmosphere. The keynote speaker for this year's meeting is Dr. Ronald Bonett (University of Tulsa, Oklahoma). Registration is only \$10.00 and the beer is free.

Looking for an alternative to costly national herpetological meetings held in large cities with way too many non-herpetological registrants (and where you have only a cash bar)? Try the KHS. Regional meetings are the future.

Individuals wishing to present a paper at the KHS meeting should submit their title as an email no later than 1 October 2008 to Joe Collins (jcollins@ku.edu) for posting on the KHS web site and inclusion in the program. Be sure to note whether your presentation is a candidate for *The Collins Award* (must be primarily about Kansas herpetofauna) and/or *The Toland Award* (must be a KHS student member). These will be flagged in the program and on the annual meeting web site.

To view the 2008 KHS annual meeting program as now scheduled (and updated daily), visit the web site at

<http://www.cnah.org/khs/AnnualMeetingInfo.html>

KHS CALL FOR AUCTION ITEMS

The 35th annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society will be held 7-9 November 2008 in William Penn Hall at Friends University, Wichita, Kansas. KHS President Dan Carpenter will preside over the meeting and the fund-raising auction will be held Saturday night (8 November) to support the Society.

Please bring herpetological items to the meeting for the auction. Hold them and bring them the auction on Saturday evening at the Education Center auditorium in the Sedgwick County Zoo. Give them to Dan Carpenter, Suzanne Collins, or Joe Collins at that time. We count on you to bring items about amphibians, turtles, reptiles, or crocodilians and other stuff oriented to herpetology. PLEASE DO NOT BRING NON-HERPETOLOGICAL ITEMS; these will simply be discarded or given away before or after the auction.

For more information about the 2008 KHS annual meeting, visit the web site at

<http://www.cnah.org/khs/AnnualMeetingInfo.html>

KHS COLLECTING BAGS AT FALL FIELD TRIP

The first-ever KHS Snake Bags will be available at the Society Fall Field Trip to Smith County at the special price of \$10.00 per bag. Carefully hand-crafted and double-stitched with sewn corners (to prevent you from getting nipped by that testy Copperhead), these excellent brilliant orange out-standing field sacks stand out in the field; you won't lose your sack unless you lose your eyesight. Embossed with the KHS Logo, these snake sacks are worth their weight in Milk Snakes, which will throw themselves into the gaping maw of the bag as soon as you open it. Here's a chance to have your personal snake sack autographed by any number of people (even folks you don't know). Be neat. Be the first on your block to walk around with an orange bag looped through your belt. Be the first on your block to walk around with an orange bag looped through your belt that has something inside it that moves and wiggles. Be the first. Be a bag person.

Come prepared to buy as many snake bags as you need (always buy more than you can fill), and support the Kansas Herpetological Society, its goals, its aims, and its services.

For more information about the 2008 KHS fall field trip, scheduled for 3-5 October, visit the KHS web site at

<http://www.cnah.org/khs/FieldTripInfoFall.html>

KHS WEB SITE

KHS members should avail themselves of the Society web site, the most up-to-date state herpetological web site on the internet, worldwide. Take advantage of these gratis services:

A complete modern checklist of the herpetofauna of Kansas (updated daily)

Gratis downloads of the first 23 issues of the Journal of Kansas Herpetology

Watch as the annual meeting program evolves before your very eyes

Field trip information (updated daily)

Complete current contact information on all KHS officers and committee chairpersons. Go to

<http://www.cnah.org/khs/>

and keep up-to-date.

IN MEMORIAM HENRY T. SMITH
(1954-2008)

On Saturday, 24 May 2008, dear friend and colleague, Henry "Hank" T. Smith, passed away suddenly at his home in Boca Raton, Florida.

Hank came into the world on 9 June 1954, destined to begin work with the Florida Department of Natural Resources in 1987. Since 1993, Hank was the District Biologist for wildlife resources with the Florida Park Service, where he oversaw 25 state parks in southeastern Florida.

He was also an Affiliate Researcher and Assistant Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at Florida Atlantic University; in Wilkes Honors College he supervised student research, internships, and theses in biology and environmental studies. He was a driving force in the "Parknership" program that linked the Florida Park Service with various institutions and students to conduct research that met the management needs of the public lands of Florida. Alone and generously with others, Hank published on the ecology of colonial waterbirds, human impacts on wildlife resources, bioeconomics of wildlife management, and, in recent times, exotic herpetofaunal colonization dynamics in Florida. In those past six years, Hank published more than

30 herpetological publications. In this connection, Hank was a member of the *Kansas Herpetological Society*, and eight of his publications appeared in the *Journal of Kansas Herpetology*.

It was during these past five or so years that I got to know Hank, and I'm proud to have been a co-author on papers with him, a co-conspirator in project ideas, and most of all, a friend. Needless to say, working with Hank during this time was a white-knuckle ride and great fun. He was energetic and had an eye for detail with his eye not veering from the big picture. He would tease me about my demand for "go-go juice" (strong coffee), but it happened to come in handy in meeting all of our semi-apologetic self-imposed demands. Whether it was for Ernie Cowan, Heather Cress, Gary Busch, or Rick Engeman, to name a few, off we'd go!

On a personal note, Hank was encouraging and caring and he was a true friend. Not surprisingly, the lives he touched can be seen in his many co-authorships, his many friends, and in how much we miss him.

WALTER E. MESHAKA, JR., The State Museum of Pennsylvania, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 17120-0024.



L-R: Rick Engeman (Wildlife Services), Henry "Hank" T. Smith, and Bernice Constantin (Wildlife Services) in the field. Photo by Richard M. Engeman.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

SPEA BOMBIFRONS (Plains Spadefoot). KANSAS: Rawlins Co: 39.83997°N, 100.9759°W. 26 June 2008 at 12:56 am. Curtis J. Schmidt, Kendra L. Phelps, and Zachary J. Schwenke. MHP 13963. Verified by Travis W. Taggart. New county record (Collins and Collins 1993. *Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas*. Third Edition. Univ. Press Kansas. xx + 397 pp.)

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

ANAXYRUS COGNATUS (Great Plains Toad). KANSAS: Rawlins Co: 39.82205°N, 100.99972°W. 26 June 2008 at 12:47 am. Curtis J. Schmidt, Kendra L. Phelps, and Zachary J. Schwenke. MHP 13964. Verified by Travis W. Taggart. New county record (Collins and Collins 1993. *Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas*. Third Edition. Univ. Press Kansas. xx + 397 pp.)

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

LITHOBATES CATESBEIANUS (Bullfrog). KANSAS: Phillips Co: 39.66124°N, 99.12205°W. 17 July 2008. Zachary J. Schwenke. MHP 13970. New county record (Collins and Collins 1993. *Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas*. Third Edition, Univ. Press Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.). Verified by Curtis J. Schmidt.

Submitted by **ZACHARY J. SCHWENKE**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.



An adult Common King snake (*Lampropeltis getula*) (MHP 14024) found in Chase County, Kansas. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.

WICKED SERPENT OF THE WEST. The image above is of an adult Common Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula*) captured in the Flint Hills of Chase County, Kansas. The specimen is typical of those found in Arizona and California, and was either released or escaped; this pattern variant is not found in Kansas. The snake was donated to the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University. Shed skins and tissues from the serpent will be kept at the museum. Eventually, someone will determine whence it came.

Submitted by **TRAVIS W. TAGGART** and **JOSEPH T. COLLINS**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

OF INTEREST

NEW YORK RESEARCHER RECEIVES AWARD

The Center for North American Herpetology is pleased to announce that the recipient of

*The Joseph B. Slowinski Award
for Excellence in Snake Systematics* for 2008 is

Frank T. Burbrink
College of Staten Island
City University of New York
2800 Victory Boulevard
Staten Island, New York

On September 12th 2001, the world lost one of its premier biologists, a loss that went virtually unnoticed in the wake of the tragedy that befell the United States the previous day. Joseph Bruno Slow-

inski, the 39-year old curator of amphibians, turtles, reptiles, and crocodylians at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco (and a former KHS member), died in the jungles of Burma from the bite of a venomous snake. Joe was bitten on September 11th and succumbed to the effects of the bite the next day. Eventually, the world took notice and media outlets throughout the U.S. and beyond chronicled Joe Slowinski's exemplary career, cut so tragically short.

Memories of Joe Slowinski may dim through time, both among the public and his fellow biologists. Thus, *The Center for North American Herpetology* was honored to establish a permanent endowment in 2002 entitled

*The Joseph B. Slowinski Award
for Excellence in Snake Systematics*

This fitting and everlasting tribute, brought about through the generous contributions of Joe's friends and colleagues as well as a significant gift from Deutsche Bank of New York, was created as a trust in perpetuity, with the commitment to award it annually, beginning in 2003, to the biologist that published in the previous calendar year the premier scientific paper on snake systematics, an area of research to which Joe Slowinski was deeply committed.

A distinguished committee, comprised of Dr. Simon Creer (University of Wales, Bangor), Dr. Husam Zaher (Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brasil) and Dr. Christopher L. Parkinson (committee chairperson, University of Central Florida, Orlando), has deemed the paper entitled

How and When did Old World Rat Snakes Disperse into the New World?

published in volume 43 of the journal, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, as the most distinguished paper on snake systematics to appear worldwide during 2007. The paper was co-authored with Dr. Robin Lawson (California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco).

As senior author of the paper, Dr. Burbrink becomes the sixth recipient of *The Slowinski Award*, and will receive a check from *The Center for North American Herpetology* for \$500 along with a commemorative memento in recognition of his achievement.

More information about *The Slowinski Award* can be accessed at

<http://www.cnah.org/slowinskiaward.asp>

SPECIES LIMITS AND PHYLOGEOGRAPHY OF NORTH AMERICAN CRICKET FROGS (*ACRIS*: HYLIDAE)

Tony Gamble, Peter B. Berendzen, H. Bradley Shaffer, David E. Starkey, Andrew M. Simons. 2008. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 48: 112-125.

Abstract: Cricket Frogs are widely distributed across the eastern United States and two species, the Northern Cricket Frog (*Acris crepitans*) and the Southern Cricket Frog (*A. gryllus*) are currently recognized. We generated a phylogenetic hypothesis for *Acris* using fragments of nuclear and mitochondrial genes in separate and combined phylogenetic analyses. We also used distance methods and fixation indices to evaluate species limits within the genus and the validity of currently recognized subspecies of *A. crepitans*. The distributions of existing *A. crepitans* subspecies, defined by morphology and call types, do not match the distributions of evolutionary lineages recovered using our genetic data. We discuss a scenario of call evolution to explain this disparity. We also recovered distinct phylogeographic groups within *A. crepitans* and *A. gryllus* that are congruent with other codistributed taxa. Under a lineage-based species concept, we

recognize *Acris blanchardi* as a distinct species. The importance of this revised taxonomy is discussed in light of the dramatic declines in *A. blanchardi* across the northern and western portions of its range.

Associate Editor's Note: Standard common names for the three species of Cricket Frogs remain:

Acris blanchardi – Blanchard's Cricket Frog
Acris crepitans – Northern Cricket Frog
Acris gryllus – Southern Cricket Frog

In this paper, the subspecies, *Acris crepitans paludicola*, was synonymized with *Acris crepitans*.

ESU FROG WEB SITES ANNOUNCED

Lynnette Sievert and Greg Sievert are pleased to announce that their Lyon County frog and toad life cycles web site now has the calls of eight species on it. To hear the calls, go to:

<http://academic.emporia.edu/sievertg/tadpoles/Tadpoles.htm>

In addition, they have launched a frog developmental web site featuring Plains Leopard Frog embryos. To watch them grow, go to:

<http://academic.emporia.edu/sievertg/tadpoles/devo.htm>

For more information, contact Greg Sievert & Lynnette Sievert, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University, 1200 Commercial Street, Emporia, Kansas 66801-5087



HERPETOFAUNAL COUNTS

COWLEY COUNTY HERPETOFAUNAL COUNT

On 18 May 2008, Samuel S. Abbott, Tara Abbott, Austin Mease and Chris Mease conducted an herpetofaunal count in Cowley County, Kansas, at Southwestern College's Floyd & Edna Moore Biological Field Station. From 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm they observed:

Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad.....	2
Great Plains Skink	2
Six-lined Racerunner.....	2
Ringneck Snake.....	1
Plainbelly Water Snake.....	1
Common Garter Snake.....	1

Totals

6 species.....9 specimens

All species verified by Samuel S. Abbott.

Submitted by **SAMUEL S. ABBOTT**, 9809 West Birch Street, Wichita, Kansas 67212.

MARSHALL COUNTY HERPETOFAUNAL COUNT

On 15 May 2008, Michael Graziano, Peter Kleinhenz, and Daniel D. Fogell conducted an herpetofaunal count in Marshall County, Kansas. From 9:45 am to 11:30 pm they observed:

Blanchard's Cricket Frog	3
Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad.....	2
Eastern Collared Lizard.....	3
Great Plains Skink	11
Eastern Racer	2
Milk Snake.....	3
Great Plains Rat Snake.....	12
Western Rat Snake	1
Ringneck Snake.....	218
Brown Snake	1
Copperhead	6

Totals

11 species..... 262 specimens

All species verified by Dan Fogell.

Submitted by **DANIEL D. FOGELL**, Department of Biology, Southeast Community College, 8800 -O- Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68520.

RILEY COUNTY HERPETOFAUNAL COUNT

On 15 May 2008, Michael Graziano, Peter Kleinhenz, and Daniel D. Fogell conducted an herpetofaunal count in Riley County, Kansas. From 1:45 pm to 4:00 pm they observed:

Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad.....	9
Eastern Collared Lizard.....	12
Texas Horned Lizard.....	1
Great Plains Skink	5
Six-lined Racerunner.....	5
Milk Snake.....	2
Gopher Snake (aka Bullsake)	1
Western Rat Snake	1
Ringneck Snake.....	23

Totals

9 species..... 59 specimens

All species verified by Dan Fogell

Submitted by **DANIEL D. FOGELL**, Department of Biology, Southeast Community College, 8800 -O- Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68520.

SHAWNEE COUNTY HERPETOFAUNAL COUNT 1

On 26 May 2008, Marla Gubanyi, Julian Gubanyi and James Gubanyi conducted an herpetofaunal count in western Shawnee County between Valencia Road and Union Road from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Temperature was 80°F with a clear sky. They observed the following:

Blanchard's Cricket Frog	±12
Plains Leopard Frog	8
Bullfrog	6
Great Plains Skink	2
Northern Prairie Skink	1
Six-lined Racerunner.....	2
Common Garter Snake.....	1
Lined Snake.....	1

Common Snapping Turtle..... 1
Slider..... 1

Totals

10 species..... ±35 specimens

Submitted by **JAMES GUBANYI**, 2501 SW Burnett Road, Topeka, Kansas 66614.

SHAWNEE COUNTY HERPETOFAUNAL COUNT 2

On 21–22 June 2008, Keith Coleman and James Gubanyi conducted an herpetofaunal count in north-western Shawnee County on lower Silver Road between Button Road and Huxman Road from 11:30 pm to 1:30 am. Temperature was 76°F with a clear sky. They observed the following:

Great Plains Toad.....	8
Woodhouse’s Toad	6
Blanchard’s Cricket Frog	±300
Gray Treefrog.....	±60
Boreal Chorus Frog	2
Plains Leopard Frog	±28
Bullfrog.....	1

Totals

7 species..... ±405 specimens

Submitted by **JAMES GUBANYI**, 2501 SW Burnett Road, Topeka, Kansas 66614.

32ND SUMNER COUNTY HERPETOFAUNAL COUNT

Fifteen science students and their sponsors from the Seaman School District in Shawnee County, Kansas, traveled to Sumner County during April 2008 to conduct the 32nd annual survey of amphibians, reptiles, and turtles in the southern part of the county. Survey took place from noon on 23 April to noon on 26 April 2008. During the survey, the group was assisted by members of the Carson Ward family, students and parents from Ms. Gail Feely’s science classes at Caldwell Elementary School, and several interested individuals from the Caldwell area. The total number of participants assisting with either part or all of the survey was approximately 70 individuals. Area surveyed was bordered on south by Oklahoma line, on east by Kansas Turnpike, and on north by US Rt. 160. Western border was a north/south line running south from US Rt. 160 at Argonia to the Oklahoma border. All collecting took place within a mile of one of the following rivers or streams: Chikaskia River, Bluff Creek, Fall Creek, Slate Creek. All animals were verified by Larry L. Miller, Cory Ward, and Quinn Ward. The count was:

Smallmouth Salamander	1
Great Plains Toad.....	10
Blanchard’s Cricket Frog	35
Spotted Chorus Frog	4
Gray Treefrog complex	7
Plains Leopard Frog	4
Bullfrog.....	2
Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad.....	5

Lesser Earless Lizard.....	29
Prairie Lizard.....	39

Texas Horned Lizard.....	2
Great Plains Skink	7
Southern Prairie Skink.....	20
Six-lined Racerunner.....	10
Western Slender Glass Lizard	1
Eastern Racer	7
Common Kingsnake	1
Milk Snake.....	1
Coachwhip.....	3
Gopher Snake (aka Bullsake)	1
Western Rat Snake	2
Ground Snake	31
Plains Blackhead Snake	6
Ringneck Snake.....	319
Plainbelly Water Snake.....	2
Northern Water Snake.....	2
Common Garter Snake.....	2
Lined Snake.....	3

Common Snapping Turtle.....	1
Northern Painted Turtle	1
Ornate Box Turtle	2
Slider.....	2

Total

32 species..... 562 specimens

Submitted by **LARRY L. MILLER**, 840 SW 97th Street, Wakarusa, Kansas 66546.

WABAUNSEE COUNTY HERPETOFAUNAL COUNT

On 15 May 2008, Michael Graziano, Peter Kleinhenz, and Daniel D. Fogell conducted an herpetofaunal count in Wabaunsee County, Kansas. From 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm they observed:

Eastern Collared Lizard.....	1
Eastern Racer	1
Milk Snake.....	2
Great Plains Rat Snake.....	3
Ringneck Snake.....	5

Ornate Box Turtle	2
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Totals

6 species..... 14 specimens

All species verified by Dan Fogell

Submitted by **DANIEL D. FOGELL**, Department of Biology, Southeast Community College, 8800 -O-Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68520.

NOTES

THE NORTHERN CURLYTAIL LIZARD (*LEIOCEPHALUS CARINATUS*) IS DEPREDATED BY THE GREEN HERON (*BUTORIDES VIRESCENS*) IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA

Michael S. Hubbard
131 Shore Court, Apt. A-1
North Palm Beach, Florida 33408

Henry T. Smith
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Park Service
13798 SE Federal Highway
Hobe Sound, Florida 33455

Walter E. Meshaka, Jr.*
The State Museum of Pennsylvania
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The Northern Curlytail Lizard (*Leiocephalus carinatus*) is a well-established exotic species in Florida (Meshaka et al., 2004; Smith and Engeman, 2004a; Meshaka et al., 2005). Few avian predators of this species have been documented within its introduced range (Smith and Engeman, 2004a,b; Smith et al., 2006a,b). Two wading bird species are known predators of this lizard, the Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) (Smith and Engeman, 2004b) and the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) (H. T. Smith, unpubl. data). Here, we report predation of *L. carinatus* by a third wading bird species in Florida, the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*).

On 18 November 2007, MSH observed a Green Heron landing in the grass in his yard. The bird was alarmed by the presence of a neighbor and MSH, and flew off soon after arriving. The neighbor volunteered that he had recently seen this species frequently in the evenings, not on the bulkhead by the water, but hunting near his hibiscus hedges. On 23 November 2007 at 1015 hrs (temperature 25.6°C, a mostly sunny morning with a light breeze), WST took the accompanying photo (Figure 1) of a Green Heron that had emerged (26°48'29.6N, 80°03'15.2W) from the hibiscus hedge with an adult *L. carinatus* in its bill. Prey handling involved the heron loosening its grip and then repeatedly crushing the lizard until it became immobile. The lizard was then swallowed quickly. After a short time, this heron was again seen foraging inside and around this same hibiscus hedge and other hedges in the yard. On 24 November 2007 at 1030 hrs, MSH flushed a Green Heron

out of a different hibiscus hedge approximately 10 m from where the predation event had occurred the day before. When flushed, apparently from inside the hedge, the bird flew to the canal and headed west.

The Green Heron is a wide-ranging species in Florida, a generalist aquatic carnivore, and a wide variety of invertebrate and vertebrate prey is consumed (especially fish) by it across its North American range (Davis and Kushlan, 1994). In coastal southeastern Florida, the ranges of the exotic *L. carinatus* and the native Green Heron frequently overlap. This series of observations of the Green Heron and those of other wading birds (Smith et al. 2004a,b; Smith, unpubl. data) quantify an expanding dynamic food web associated with an increasingly diverse exotic herpetofauna in Florida.

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- Meshaka, W. E. Jr., B. P. Butterfield and J. B. Hauge. 2004. The Exotic Amphibians and Reptiles of Florida, Krieger Publishing Co., Malabar, Florida. 155 pp.
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Figure 1. A Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) preys upon a Northern Curlytail Lizard (*Leiocephalus carinatus*) in Palm Beach County, Florida. Photograph by William S. Tate.



A PROPOSAL TO RETAIN *MASTICOPHIS* AS THE GENERIC NAME FOR THE COACHWHIP AND WHIPSNAKES

Recently, Utiger et al. (2005) generated a phylogenetic arrangement using two partially sequenced mitochondrial genes (12S rRNA and COI) from three taxa, and proposed placing the genus *Masticophis* in the synonymy of the genus *Coluber*. In Kansas, this would change the scientific name of the Coachwhip from *Masticophis flagellum* to *Coluber flagellum*, and would affect many additional taxa in the United States and adjacent Mexico.

As our new book on the Kansas herpetofauna nears completion, the decision on whether or not to incorporate Utiger's recommendation has been put off as long as possible. We are in contact with systematists in possession of data bearing directly on this issue (Frank T. Burbrink, pers. comm.). It is likely that while the Kansas herpetofaunal book is in press (or soon after its publication), the taxonomy of this group will revert back to some semblance of its current usage. Therefore, continued recognition of the genus *Masticophis* will be followed by us.

Additionally, it is hoped that future studies recommending changes to this group would include a much more thorough sampling of the extant taxa.

While Utiger's work illustrated the paraphyly of *Masticophis flagellum* with respect to *Coluber constrictor*, the taxonomic sampling was incomplete such that the unsampled taxa within *Coluber* and *Masticophis* (*C. mormon*, *M. bilineatus*, *M. lateralis*, and *M. schotti*) could not be adequately addressed; their inclusion might have revealed alternative taxonomic arrangements that were less radical.

Literature Cited

Utiger U., B. Schätti & N. Helfenberger
2005. The oriental colubrine genus *Coelognathus* Fitzinger, 1843 and classification of Old and New World racers and rat snakes (Reptilia, Squamata, Colubridae, Colubrinae). Russian Journal of Herpetology 12 (1): 39–60.

JOSEPH T. COLLINS, *Kansas Biological Survey*, Higuchi Hall, 2101 Constant Avenue, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66047, and TRAVIS W. TAGGART, *Sternberg Museum of Natural History*, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

About the Kansas Herpetological Society

The KHS 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 the herpetofauna of Kansas in particular; and to achieve closer cooperation and understanding between herpetologists, so that they may work together in common cause. 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 Secretary, 5438 SW 12th Terrace Apt. 4, Topeka, Kansas 66604, USA.

KHS Meetings

The KHS holds an annual meeting in the fall of each year. The meeting is, minimally, a two day event with lectures and presentations by herpetologists. All interested individuals are invited to make presentations. The annual meeting is also the time of the Saturday night social and fund-raising auction.

Field Trips

The KHS hosts two or more field trips each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Field trips are an enjoyable educational experience for everyone, and also serve to broaden our collective understanding of the distribution and abundance the amphibians, reptiles, and turtles in Kansas. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Editorial Policy

The Journal of Kansas Herpetology, issued quarterly (March, June, September, and December), publishes all society business.

Submission of Manuscripts

As space allows, *JKH* publishes all manner of news, notes, and articles. Priority of publishing is given to submissions of Kansas herpetological subjects and by KHS members, however all submissions are welcome. The ultimate decision concerning the publication of a manuscript is at the discretion of the Editor. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor in an electronic format whenever possible. Those manuscripts submitted in hard copy may be delayed in date of publication. 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. In the interest of consistency and clarity, the common names used in *JKH* will follow the latest edition of standardized common names as organized by CNAH (www.cnah.org), which are also used in the prior, current and subsequent editions of *Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas* (currently Collins and Collins, 1993).

Submission of Original Artwork

Pen and ink illustrations and photographs are also welcomed. Illustrations and photographs will be returned to the author only upon request.

Advertisements

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.

Peer-reviewed manuscripts

JKH publishes original peer-reviewed submissions under the Articles section. Upon review, acceptance, and publication, Portable Document File (PDF) copies are provided gratis to the author on request.

Societal Awards, Grants, and Recognitions

Distinguished Life Members

Individuals selected as Distinguished Life Members are chosen by the KHS Executive Council based on their distinguished published research papers on Kansas herpetology.

Bronze Salamander Award

Established in 1987, this Award is presented to those individuals whose efforts and dedication to the Kansas Herpetological Society go far beyond the normal bounds. The recipients of this Award have given exemplary service to the KHS, and are presented with an elegant bronze sculpture of a Barred Tiger Salamander.

The Howard K. Gloyd - Edward H. Taylor Scholarship

The Gloyd-Taylor Scholarship is present annually by the Kansas Herpetological Society to an outstanding herpetology student. The scholarship is a minimum of \$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.

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 will be selected by the KHS Awards Committee. A minimum award of \$100 is given annually.

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

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, reptiles, and turtles 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. 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 native species of Kansas amphibian, reptile, and/or turtle and 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, reptiles, and/or turtles. The Collins Award is minimally \$1,000.00, and is neither a grant nor a scholarship. No nominations or applications can be made for it.

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