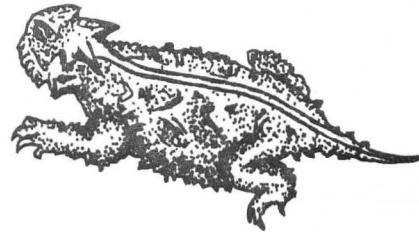


KANSAS
HERPETOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER



Number 11

February 1976

LAWRENCE KHS MEETING WELL ATTENDED

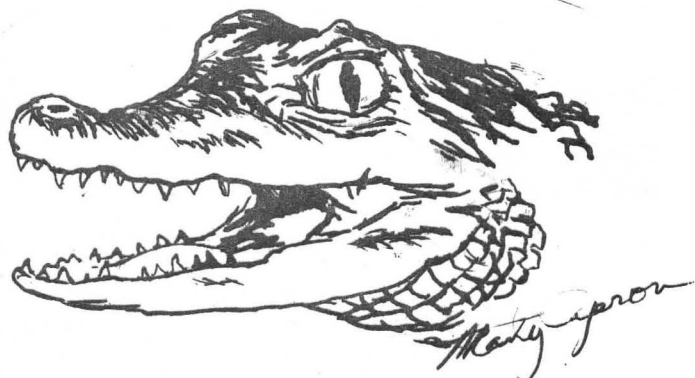
The first 1976 meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society was held on Saturday, 17 January, in the Museum of Natural History at KU. Thirty-eight members and guests assembled and the meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by KHS President Caldwell. In addition, to excellent talks by KHS members Henry Fitch and Luis Malaret, the audience was treated to a fine color slide presentation on tri-color snakes by Randy Johnson, KHS member visiting Lawrence from Scottsdale, Arizona. A good time was had by all, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

KHS MARCH MEETING IN CALDWELL

The next meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society will be held on Saturday, 27 March, in the Caldwell Community Building, First & Arapahoe Streets, Caldwell, Kansas. The meeting will start promptly at 1:00pm. Speaker for the meeting will be Larry Miller talking on the "Amphibians and reptiles of the Caldwell area". Larry's talk will be supplemented with color slides, and will also cover techniques for using amphibians and reptiles in teaching elementary science classes. WEATHER PERMITTING, assembled KHS members and guests will take part in a nocturnal amphibian hunt led by Martin Capron and Larry Miller. Pray for rain, warm weather and wild frogs. Please plan to attend--and bring friends.

KHS MEMBERS TO RECEIVE CHECKLIST TO KANSAS HERPS

With this mailing all KHS members will receive one copy of the recently completed Checklist to Kansas amphibians and reptiles, compiled by Eric M. Rundquist.



Kansas Herpetological Society
Treasurer's Report - 1975

Income

Balance carried forward from calendar 1974	\$100.59	
Contributing memberships for 1975 (3)	45.00	
Regular memberships for 1975 (104)	312.00	
Contributing membership for 1976 (1)	15.00	
Regular memberships for 1976 (28)	<u>84.00</u>	556.59

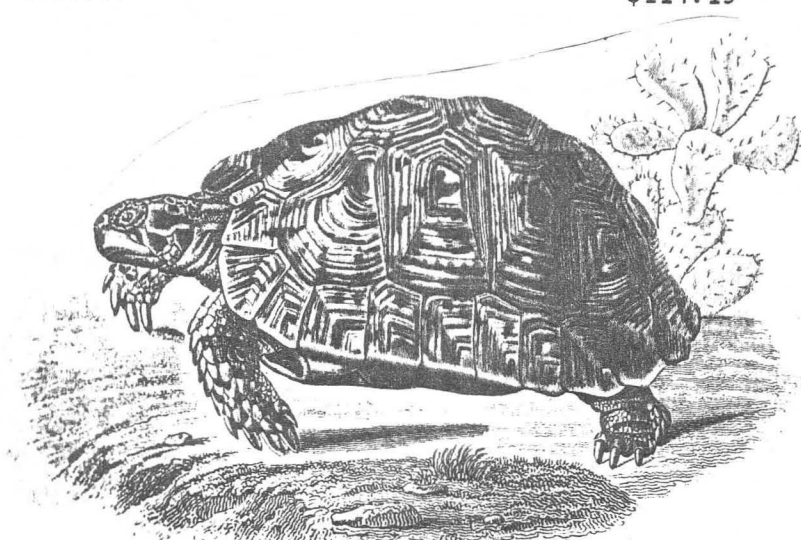
Expenses

Printing KHS Newsletter 4	17.22	
Printing KHS Newsletter 5	16.64	
Printing KHS Newsletter 6	10.80	
Printing KHS Newsletter 7	11.51	
Printing KHS Newsletter 8	15.84	
Printing KHS Newsletter 9	24.20	
Printing KHS/SSAR brochure (KHS share)	233.50	
Printing KHS envelopes	25.46	
Purchase ASIH career pamphlets	5.00	
Annual meeting expenses	7.70	
Postage	64.00	
Bank charges	1.90	
Miscellaneous	<u>8.63</u>	<u>442.40</u>

Balance forwarded to 1976 KHS Treasurer \$114.19

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Dawson
KHS Treasurer (1975)



WICHITA PET SHOP SELLING CAIMANS

In October, a keeper from the Sedgwick County Zoo visited a pet store in a local shopping center. This particular pet shop has acquired the reputation of selling exotic animals, usually reptiles, while knowing little about the animals or their care. As a result, various keepers from the zoo periodically visit this shop. On this occasion the keeper found a number of very young crocidilians advertised as "Baby South American Alligators". A Herpetarium keeper visited the pet shop the next day and found the "alligators" to be spectacled caimans, Caiman sclerops.

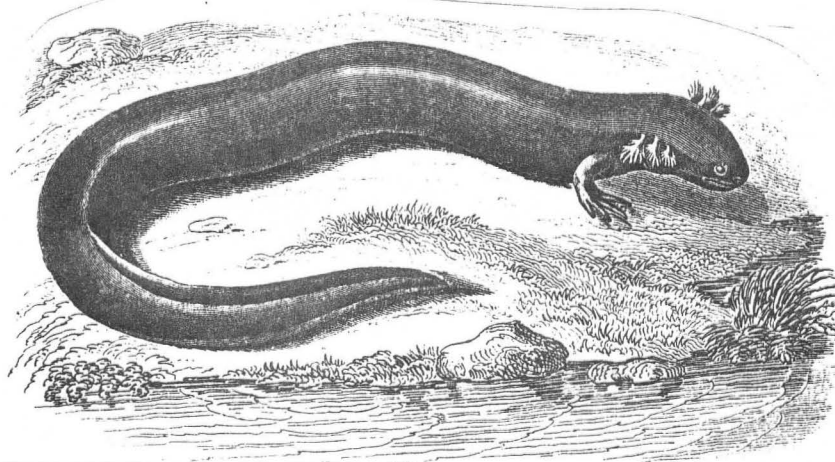
After inquiring about the animals, it was discovered that the shop employees had little knowledge of proper care and the laws governing endangered species. The management was informed of the caiman's endangered status, and its classification on the U.S. Department of Interior Threatened and Endangered Wildlife List, thereby requiring a federal permit for the sale or transport across state lines. The state law forbidding the sale of any amphibious reptile was also mentioned. As a result, the management representative quickly developed an attitude of "who are you to tell me how to do my job?" Realizing that he had accomplished nothing in the pet shop, the keeper went to the County Health Department. Having reported the situation to the Health Department officials, he then called the U.S. Department of Interior Field Office and informed them of the permit violations. Both offices said they would investigate the matter. A visit to the shop a couple of days latter showed no sign of caiman anywhere.

A couple of weeks later the manager of the pet shop accepted an invitation to visit the Herpetarium to familiarize himself with the facility. During his tour of the building, a friendly discussion of exotic pets, conservation, culture and related subjects evolved. Both sides were quite frank and open minded while trying to understand the other's point of view. Although he could not be convinced to not sell reptiles, the manager did say that he did not realize the caiman was endangered and would not sell endangered species in his shop. The poor care of herptiles that generally exists in pet shops was also discussed at some length, and we all agreed that ignorance of these animals is the basic problem.

The Herpetarium staff offered to provide the manager any advice or information he might need to keep herptiles healthy, and we asked that he tell other pet shops of this offer.

A better understanding and friendlier attitude now exists. Hopefully with this positive communication we will be able to direct these pet shops to a more conservation-minded attitude.

--DAVID GROW



McIlhenny's The Alligator's Life History

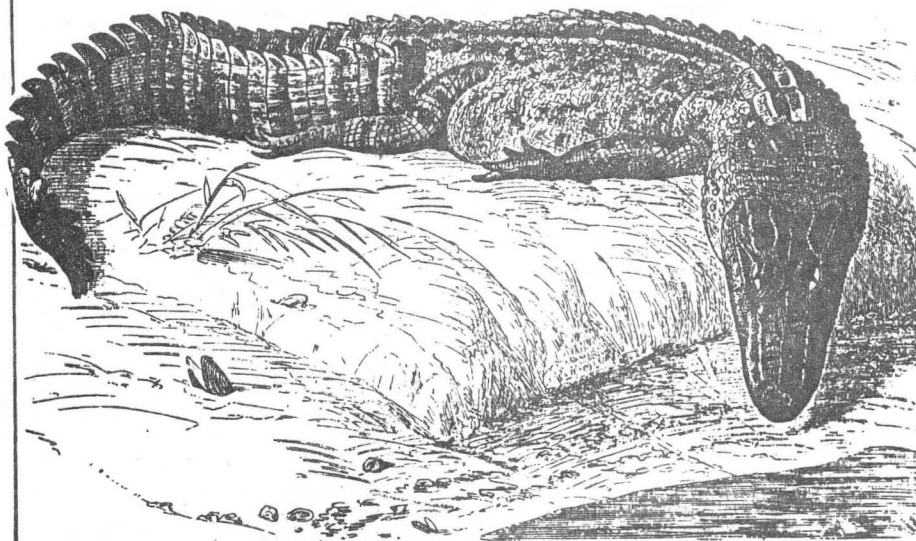
125 pages, 18 full-page photographs, portrait, originally published Boston, 1935
WITH A NEW PREFACE BY ARCHIE CARR (University of Florida)

Although published forty years ago, this classic is still the most complete record of the natural history of North America's most distinctive reptile. The book is based on personal observations made over a lifetime of intimate association with the alligator in its native habitat. There are chapters on facts and myths, habitat, dens and hibernation, food and growth, voice, nest building and incubation, and enemies. In view of the endangered status of crocodilians internationally and their important phylogenetic position, McIlhenny's account will continue to provide a wealth of basic information for evolutionary, behavioral and ecological studies.

to order

Orders may be placed now. The book will be published in Spring 1976; to take advantage of special prices, *SSAR members must place their orders before publication*. Please mark the edition you desire and send with payment to Dr. Henri C. Seibert, Morton Hall, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701, USA. Make checks payable to "SSAR"; receipt sent on request only.

Mark these boxes if you want information on SSAR membership ☐ or a complete list of Society publications ☐.



prices

SSAR members before publication:

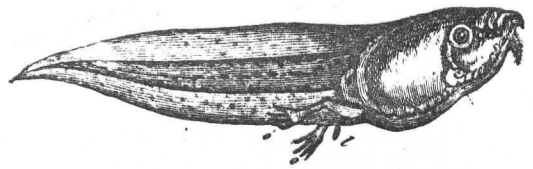
\$ 7 paperbound ☐

\$10 clothbound ☐

Institutions and non-members:

\$12 paperbound ☐

\$15 clothbound ☐



CURRENT LITERATURE

This current literature section has been compiled by Mary E. Dawson, and contains articles and books of possible interest to KHS members:

Brooks, G. R.

1975. Scincella lateralis (Say). Ground Skink. SSAR Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles, 167: 1-4 (shows range of this species in Kansas--look under Leiopisma laterale in Collins' book).

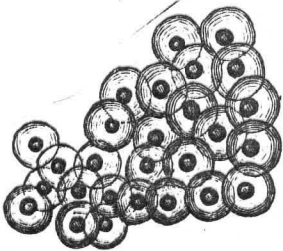
Dunlap, D. G. and K. C. Kruse

1976. Frogs of the Rana pipiens complex in the northern and central Plains states. Southwestern Naturalist, 20(4): 559-571 (eliminates Rana pipiens from Kansas and defines the ranges and characteristics of Rana blairi and Rana utricularia, both of which occur in Kansas).

Medica, P. A.

1075. Rhinocheilus Baird and Girard. Long-nosed Snake. SSAR Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles, 175: 1-4. (shows range of genus in Kansas).

Bulletin of the Oklahoma Herpetological Society, Number 1, issued January 1976. This is a new regional herpetological society formed by KHS member Richard Lardie (1414 Parker Street, Enid, Oklahoma 73701). KHS members interested in joining the OHS should write Dick. Congratulations to OHS.



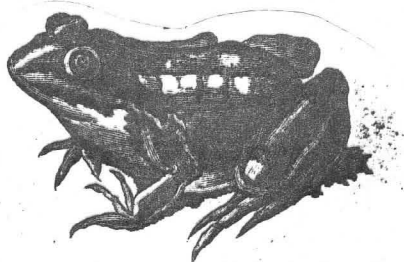
COLLECTING IN THE LITTLE KNOWN REGION OF CORDIERRA DEL CONDOR

The World War II vintage DC-3 lurched violently back and forth, the puppet of unsteady Andean mountain winds, as we bounced between peaks at 4000 m. My stalwart stomach was approaching far reaches of tolerance when we suddenly bumped down on the grassy runway at Gualaquiza, Ecuador.

We were bound for the region of the Cordierrra del Condor, on the border of Peru and Ecuador, to collect amphibians, reptiles, and plants (primarily orchids) in this little known area. I had the good fortune to be invited along on an expedition led by Dr. Mylan Fiske, an orchid specialist from New York. Included in our group were Dr. Bruce MacBryde, a botanist from Universidad Catolica in Quito, Ecuador; Mr. Robert Fiske, a photographer; and an Italian priest, Padre Andreetta, who's hobby is orchid collecting.

From Gualaquiza, we journeyed by truck and river barge to Mision Bomboiza, a Catholic mission for the Jivaro Indians, famed headhunters of the Amazon basin.

After a few days of preparation of supplies and itinerary, we set off on 1 January 1972, marching triumphantly to the banks of the Rio



Chichumbleta (pronounced Chichumbleta), only to have a combination of high water and hung-over canoemen thwart our plans.

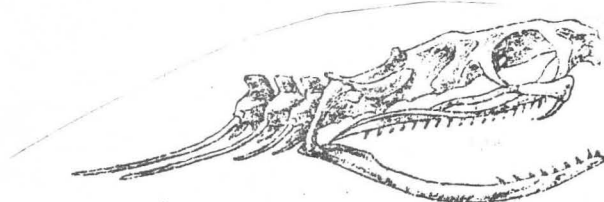
The next day, Padre Andreetta volunteered 20 of his students to help transport our gear on the four hour trek needed to avoid the high water. At 10:45am we reached an army post at the confluence of the Rio Chichumbleta and the Rio Zamora, gaining another expedition member, an army private named Osvaldo. He and his rusty Mauser were to protect us in case we were attacked by marauding Peruvians. From here, we proceeded by canoe to the Tutus rapids. The heavy wooden dugouts were lowered over the slick rocks and tied securely, and we started our journey up to the mountains. We made it to a bamboo and thatch school at an indian settlement called San Jose (at 870 m) for a supper of rice, platanos, yucca, and a chicken, which had apparently been claimed by senescence. After supper we met the Jivaros, or Shuara, who would guide us up into the Condor. After prolonged bickering, financial inducement quelled their fears of death from boas, tigers, bears, and dog-faced witches.

The third of January we began the rough trip up the mountain into cloud forest. I was reasonably fit for the treacherous muddy trails after six months in the field, but the climb began to get to my lungs, as I had been living at a mere 340 m all that time. Our first catch was made by Padre Andreetta at 1400 m, an ugly Eleutherodactylus sulcatus, a squat little toad with horns above the eyes.

At our camp that evening, the Indians promptly began to cut down trees and clear an area about thirty feet in diameter. Curious about this waste of energy from supposedly forest-wise people, we queried them and at last the truth came out. Yes, they were the brave and fearless Shuara...at altitudes of less than 1000 m. The mountains terrified them. For instance, on this mountain, there was supposedly a ferocious witch which crept down from the trees at night and carried off men to appease her raving sexual appetite. Always the optimist, I immediately slung my hammock at the perimeter but alas, the myths of the jungles are many.

This was my first night in a jungle hammock, and the only night I have ever had my sleeping gear turn against me in a bloodthirsty and ruthless fashion. After having achieved the nearly impossible gyrations required to insert oneself into a mummy bag while swinging to and fro from the trees, I was just settling down for a comfortable night bent at a 45 degree angle when, with a sudden, unwarranted, and unexpected twist, I was tossed upside down and to the ground. Being in a jungle, it was raining. Being in the outdoors, I fell in a puddle of mud and water. Keeping a cool head as I always do in emergencies, I screamed loudly for MacBryde as I thrashed out blindly at the attacking sinister forces of the darkness, hairy legs in jockey shorts, protruding from a pair of Wellingtons.

We continued our penetration of the unknown the next morning, sending one group back for supplies left at San Jose. We were following game trails, so the front man in line would open the tangle of vegetation with his machete high enough for the intrepid explorers to pass through. At 1775 m, I caught an Enyalioides praestabilis, a beautiful lizard, blending in with a moss covered tree trunk. We crested the first peak at 2000 m, and rapidly went down to 1900 m. In cloud forest, trees are constantly falling over, forming intertwined mounds of vegetation on



the ground. However, the cool air slows the processes of decay, so that rather than walking on the ground, you walk on a platform of fallen branches, which opens into a seemingly bottomless pit every 50 m or so beneath the tread of your unsuspecting feet. In this fashion, we continued until late afternoon to a river the Shuara called the Rio Piuntza. The water ran a suspicious yellow color due to minerals in the soil. So suspicious, in fact, that certain members of our party were afraid to drink it without first boiling. I must say it's color added a whole new dimension to oatmeal.

Here we made a larger camp, complete with sleeping platforms to guard against the whims of hammocks. The Indians were quite amused at MacBryde and I swinging machetes to construct our architectural masterwork, until late that night when theirs collapsed with a mighty roar. The Fiskes circumvented these difficulties by sleeping in a nice, dry tent.

In clearing our camp and subsequent collecting, we obtained two snakes, and Atractus and a Leimadophis, later adding a Dipsas. We caught large numbers of Eleutherodactylus, a genus of frog that lays its eggs on land and is common throughout northwestern South America.

After our evening meal (a delightful soup MacBryde concocted from stale cookies), we were treated to a concert of tribal songs around the campfire. Robert recorded the event erasing Beethoven's 3rd for the occasion.

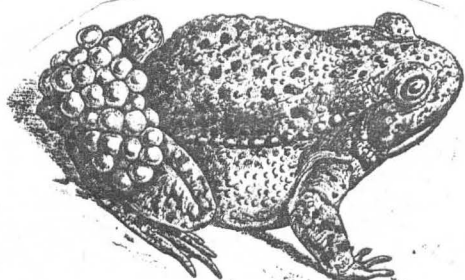
I went night collecting, that being the best time for jungle herps, aided by headlamps and MacBryde. This was too much for the Shuara, who would never venture beyond the light of the fire as they listened to the growling of tigers circling the camp at night and discovered bear signs during the day.

We also collected Atelopus, a slow-moving toad-like amphibian, and Hemiphractus, a frog with an orange tongue. The Shuara were all helpful bringing in specimens, but they did not like to handle them. I would get even tiny Colostethus (of the Poison Arrow Frog family, Dendrobatidae) tied by the waist with a vine or root.

After a hard day of collecting, preserving, and then night collecting, we were just turning in when MacBryde spotted a coveted prize. About 4 m off the ground sat a big Marsupial frog, (Gastrotheca). I deftly made my way up the sloping tree in my nimble hiking boots and moved slowly out towards the quarry while Bruce spotted from the ground. The frog proceeded to leap playfully from limb to limb, until, at a crucial point, the very limb to which I had entrusted my bodily self snapped, and the frog and I retired abruptly to the ground. Fortunately, Bruce was able to pounce upon it as it hit.

Our supplies were running low, as we were up feeding more people than we had expected to, so when I was informed by the Shuara the next day that the Gastrotheca (which they called Cangur) was good eating, I quickly preserved it in formol, for the sake of Science.

We began the return journey on the 8th. The trail was miserable, but on the way down we caught a Caecilian about three-fourths m long. No matter how hard I gripped, the slimy amphibian managed to elude my grasp, and it was only after immense difficulty that I got the thing



into a bag. It was much later when I found out that they have large teeth and a mean bite.

Our only accident occurred on the return trip. MacBryde fell on a rock, cutting a deep gash just below the kneecap. It fell the lot of Robert, as the only one of us with medical training to clean the wound and bandage it.

We reached our canoes at noon on the 9th. The journey back went somewhat faster, despite the same problems of hauling a thirty foot dugout over slick, fast rapids. Bruce by now had a very stiff leg. The difficulty of walking forced him to stay in the boat.

Back at the mission, we had our first showers in some time, and after sorting and packing our collections (orchids require special handling), we waited for the water to go down so we could get to Gualaquiza. Our plane was delayed by bad weather, finally arriving on the 14th. While in Gualaquiza, I was given a collection of local snakes by a Peace Corps worker which he had cleverly preserved in the local moonshine (made from sugar cane).

All told we obtained about 150 specimens from the Condor, 22 species of frogs, 3 species of lizards, 3 species of snakes, and one caecilian. I am thankful to Dr. Fiske for inviting me along in the first place, appreciated everyone's enthusiastic support of my herping, and gained enticing glimpses into the herpetofauna of a previously unknown region.

--JOHN E SIMMONS, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

A COURSE OFFERING IN CARE OF CAPTIVE REPTILES

Fredric L. Frye, D.V.M., a noted specialist in the veterinary care of reptiles, will conduct an intensive three-day course, "Practical Husbandry, Medicine and Surgery of Captive Reptiles," on Friday, Saturday and **Sunday**, April 23, 24 and 25, 1976, at the Monteleone Hotel in New Orleans, La.

The course is intended for veterinarians, personnel in research and educational institutions, herpetologists, animal keepers and others concerned with the health care of reptiles. It is being sponsored by the University of California Extension, Berkeley, which presented a similar two-day course conducted by Dr. Frye in New York City in the spring of 1975. In the forthcoming course, Dr. Frye will present much new information that was not known at the time of the earlier presentation.

Topics for slide-illustrated lectures and discussions will include: Husbandry---housing, litter and cage enrichment material, nutrition and deficiency syndromes, water, humidity, and temperature, photoperiodicity, reproduction, waste management.

Medicine---infectious bacterial, fungal, protozoan and metazoan diseases, hematology, radiology, cardiology.



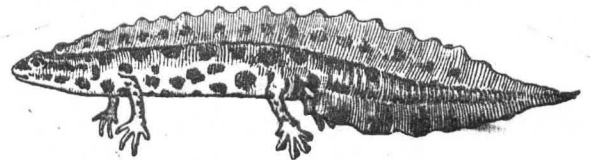
Pathology---gross pathologic changes, normal histology, abnormal histology covering tumors, abscesses and other inflammatory lesions, acquired deficiency syndromes, parasitic diseases.

Surgery---anesthesia, selected surgical procedures, pathology, neoplasia, obstetric and gynecological disorders including pregnancy diagnosis, reproductive diseases and surgical correction of obstetrical difficulties.

Dr. Frye is a research associate at the Steinhart Aquarium in San Francisco and at the Donner Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley; is a lecturer at the UC Medical Center in San Francisco; and is clinical professor in the school of veterinary medicine at UC, Davis. He is a consultant to numerous research organizations; his most recent book, Husbandry, Medicine and Surgery of Captive Reptiles, will be available to course participants at a reduced price.

The registration fee for the three-day course is \$110. Advance enrollment is advised. A number of partial scholarships are available for full-time students; applications should be made to University Extension before March 15. The California Academy of Veterinary Medicine will grant California veterinarians 15 credits toward membership; veterinarians in other states may request credit from their state associations.

For further details write to Continuing Education in Sciences and Mathematics, University of California Extension, Berkeley, CA 94720, or call (415) 642-1061.



ANOTHER TRIP TO SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA, PART I

On 2 August at 4:50am KHS Editor Janice Perry and I left Lawrence, Kansas for Arizona. Somehow our Rent-A-Hog (1975 Chrysler Newport) managed 15mpg at near-legal speeds, enabling us to arrive in Scottsdale, Arizona ("The most western town in the West") after 24 hours of driving and 48 dollars for unleaded gasoline. We were just in time for the best heat wave of the summer: 114°F on the day of our arrival, 116° the next.

We traded in our new hog for a used one; we borrowed my mother's '65 Impala and drove to Tucson August 5th. There we joined John Hayes, with whom I had toured Arizona last May (see KHS Newsletter #8). After sunset we drove Old Spanish Trail out towards I-10. Despite the heat, we saw a Regal Horned lizard (Phrynosoma solare), a small Gopher snake (Pituophis melanoleucus), and a Tiger rattlesnake (Crotalus tigris). Hunting the roads during May had been very unsuccessful due to the unusually low temperatures.

The next afternoon (6 August), we got a late start on a short trip to a nearby mountain which I had not visited last May. John tried to catch a nap while Janice and I headed up a promising canyon. The heat wave was still going strong, so we saw only flies, mosquitoes, gnats, and 4 Yarrow's Spiny lizards (Sceloporus jarrovi) during our 4.5 mile hike. The insects had not been out last May.

We rejoined John at the car, where hundreds of flies were frustrating his attempts to sleep. Coca-colas and peanuts revived us enough to make the drive to another canyon where we planned to camp. At sunset, as we

neared our campsite we found another Regal Horned lizard on the road.

The insects in this canyon were even more numerous and annoying than those in the previous one. The fire over which we cooked attracted dozens of moths, all anxious to add a little protein and spice to our already nutritious and delicious tuna helper. Throughout the night we could hear scores of mosquitoes buzzing around our ears and hundreds of confused young grasshoppers rustling beneath our groundcloths.

The next morning was lizard-filled. Never having cooled off much during the night, the canyon was rapidly roasted by the rising sun, so the lizards were up early. The oak trees around our camp yielded many Clark's Spiny lizards (Sceloporus clarki). The heat drove us to higher elevations; by 7:30am we were on our way up the dusty road to a 7600' peak. Along the way we saw numerous Greater Earless lizards (Holbrookia texana) and tree lizards (Urosaurus ornatus) posted on rocky roadside tookouts, along with a few Clark's Spiny lizards. One Regal Horned lizard was basking in the road. Near the peak the only visible lizards were Yarrow's Spiny Lizards. Last May, John and I had seen mostly gravid females, now we were seeing many juveniles (born this summer) and adults of both sexes.

We returned to Tucson late in the afternoon where we drove Mission Road for reptiles until after dark. The heat was oppressive, and it had not rained since July 27; perhaps that is why we found nothing that night.

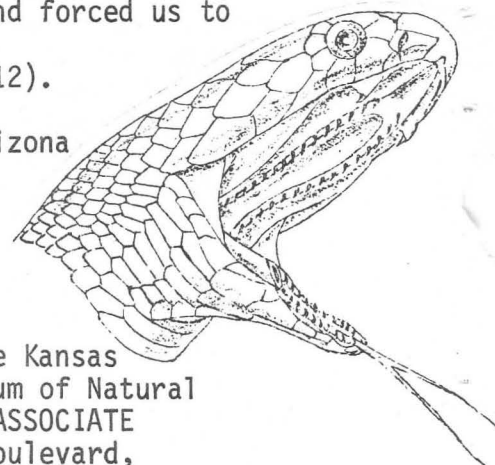
The rains which normally fall regularly during the summer ventured forth the following day (8 August) while we were touring Kitt Peak National Observatory. Tucson was doused and the heat wave was broken. We drove Old Spanish Trail that night to see what the rain had done to herp activity. We saw 1 Bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana), 2 Couch's Spadefoot Toads* (Scaphiopus couchi), and 1 DOR newborn Mojave rattlesnake (Crotalus scutulatus).

The following morning Janice and I bade John goodby and headed for a mountain range that he and I had visited last May. We pulled into the canyon at 3:30pm. A quick hike yielded no herps of any sort. We camped in a public campground that night, where hordes of screaming kids and barking dogs kept us awake.

We went back to the same canyon at 8:00am the next morning, August 10th. We saw many juvenile Sceloporus jarrovi, most of which had grown rapidly since their birth in late June and early July. I captured a Striped Whipsnake (Masticophis taeniatus), probably the first one recorded for this mountain range. Greatly increased cloudiness and impending rain drove us from the canyon around noon. Later that evening, a cloudburst extinguished our campfire before we could cook dinner and forced us to sleep in the car.

(This article will be continued in KHS Newsletter #12).

-- RANDALL N. JOHNSON, 8342 E. Keim Dr., Scottsdale, Arizona



-- The KHS Newsletter is issued every other month by the Kansas Herpetological Society. EDITOR: Janice Perry, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence 66045, and ASSOCIATE EDITOR: David Grow, Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 Zoo Boulevard, Wichita 67212.