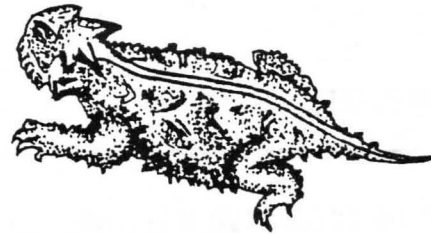


KANSAS
HERPETOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 30

APRIL 1979

FAREWELL JANICE -- WELCOME JIM!!!

The staff of the Kansas Herpetological Society is very sorry, indeed, to announce the retirement of Ms. Janice Perry as Editor of the KHS Newsletter. Jan has taken a job as animal keeper in the Reptile Department of the Dallas Zoo, and so, will be leaving Kansas for the Texas wilds" (i.e. Jim Murphy's crew).

Jan has efficiently run the operation of the Newsletter since its inception and first issue, way back in June, 1974. During her tenure as Editor, the KHS Newsletter has grown into one of the finest regional herp society newsletters available and mirrors the growth of the KHS in general. Her untiring efforts have materially contributed to the growth of the KHS and we are all very thankful to her.

From this issue forth, all correspondence concerning the newsletter should be addressed to:

James L. Knight
Museum of Natural History
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

Once again, Jan, thanks for everything!!

SCHEDULE OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

May 26-28 weekend. Black Mesa, Oklahoma -- joint meeting and field trip on the Dry Cimarron River area and Black Mesa with the state herp societies of Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado. This should be an excellent trip! See other article in this KHS Newsletter for more information.

July 20-22 weekend. Field trip meeting at Schemmerhorn Park, Galena, Cherokee County. A cool shady place for a cave experience, a wade in a cool stream, and sunbathing on the new gravel bar.

August 12-16. SSAR Meeting, Knoxville, Tennessee.

September 14-16 weekend. A field trip meeting near Hays. Camping at Scott County State Lake and conducted museum tour and talk on extinct reptiles and conducted field trip into the Cretaceous chalk beds for both extinct and extant herps.

November 17. Sixth Annual KHS Meeting at the Topeka Zoo. We will have the 2nd Annual Non-animal Auction, as well as other fine features. For those of you who did not attend last year's auction, you will find that it is fun, exciting, and a chance to acquire some good material at a reasonable cost. We ask that you bring any auctionable donations.

More information will be provided later about each of these splendid events. Place them on your calendar. These should take precedent over all of those non-essential other diversions!

--ROBERT F. CLARKE, Program Chairperson

KHS TO JOIN THE NMHS AT BOISE CITY IN MAY

KHS members and friends, come and join the New Mexico Herpetological Society on a herpetological exploratory trip to the Dry Cimarron River area over the Memorial Day weekend. The NMHS heartily invites the members of the Kansas Herpetological Society to meet with members of (hopefully) the Colorado and Oklahoma societies at Black Mesa State Park (Lake Etling) west of Boise City, Oklahoma, over the May 26-28 weekend, or longer, if desirable. We plan to use Lake Etling as a base camp because of the available shower and picnic facilities and because the lake is centrally located in the area of interest. I would guess that the NMHS would be represented by at least 20-25 members. Good weather should give us a good turnout on this trip.

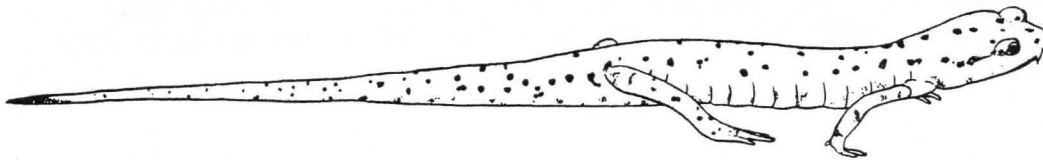
The purpose of the trip is two-fold: to meet members of herp societies of neighboring states, and to explore a relatively undisturbed area in the nearby parts of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. Each society should concentrate its efforts in its respective part of the drainage and

should advise members of the other societies on current collection restrictions in their state. Although the Dry Cimarron River area has not been thoroughly collected, we should hope to gain a maximum of knowledge with a minimum of damage, including collecting.

Using Lake Etling as a base camp affords participants an excellent way of meeting one another, exchanging ideas, and comparing notes on the one interest we all have in common - herps. Besides, it's high time that we neighboring societies got together to share our common interests in this part of the country.

--TED BROWN, President, New Mexico Herpetological Society

(Editor's note: KHS Members, this is our planned field trip for May. I hope to see you all there!)



KHS VISITS SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO

On 24 March 1979 over 50 members of the Kansas Herpetological Society gathered at the Sedgwick County Zoo to participate in a fun-packed day of interesting talks and an exciting tour of the herpetarium. Kelly Irwin, KHS President for 1979, called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. He welcomed the membership and friends of the Society to the beautiful Sedgwick County Zoo.

Kelly introduced the first speaker of the day, Joseph T. Collins from Lawrence, who spoke about Kansas herpetology: What has been done and what needs to be done -- how the KHS can help. Mr. Collins is quite pleased with the help the Society members have already provided in updating his book (The Amphibians and Reptiles of Kansas) and hopes they continue their efforts in the future. Need a few suggestions? What is the status of the hellbender in Kansas? Or the green toad? How about the smooth green snake?

Janice Perry was the next speaker of the day. She entertained the group with talks of "Snake Dances". She was lucky enough a few years ago, to have observed in some length, this "dance" phenomena in two western cottonmouths in the Missouri Ozarks.

Larry Miller and Gene Trott then provided the group with a slide show illustrating the do's and don't's of good pictures. Many good herps were captured this way--on film. The most important thing to remember about photography is that the picture you are taking is for yourself--be happy with it.

A guest speaker then took the floor, Stan Dyrkacz, a semi-recent immigrant into Kansas from the Chicagoland area. He spoke briefly about the Chicago Herpetological Society and the herps of Illinois. Although the people of Kansas may feel that they have a nondescript herpetofauna, Stan informs us that it could be worse--it could be comparable to Illinois! He also invited any KHS members to a CHS meeting if they are ever in the Chicago vicinity. The group then broke for lunch. The executive council also met at this time.

After lunch, Dave Grow, Oklahoma City Zoo, and Peter Gray, Sedgwick County Zoo gave the members a pictorial trip through their respective institutions. A great deal of herps were seen this way. The group then received a guided tour through the beautiful SCZ herpetarium. As the day was growing long, the KHS ended their meeting, with high anticipation for the upcoming Black Mesa field trip in May.

CURRENT LITERATURE

This current literature section has been compiled by J. T. Collins, and contains titles of books and articles on amphibians and reptiles of possible interest to KHS members. Generally, titles listed here are those written by KHS members, those which contain direct references to Kansas herpetofauna, or those of significance regarding North American amphibians and reptiles.

Berry, P. Y.

1975. The amphibian fauna of peninsular Malaysia. Tropical Press, Kuala Lumpur. X + 130 pp. Price unknown.

Brunson, K.

1979. Rivers--Kansas' seven best. Kansas Fish and Game, 36(2):7-22.

Duncan, R. and R. Highton

1979. Genetic relationships of the eastern large Plethodon of the Ouachita Mountains. Copeia, 1979(1):95-110. (contains description of a new salamander, Plethodon fourchensis, from Arkansas).

Gloyd, H. K.

1978. A new generic name for the hundred-pace viper. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 91(4):963-964. (establishes the generic name Deinagkistrodon for the Asian species acutus).

Jenkins, J. D.

1979. Notes on the courtship of the map turtle Graptemys pseudogeographica (Gray) (Reptilia, Testudines, Emydidae). Journ. Herp., 13(1): 129-131.

Johnson, T. R.

1979. Missouri turtles...an exercise in contrast. Missouri Conservationists, 40(2):6-7.

Linder, A. D. and E. Fichter

1977. The amphibians and reptiles of Idaho. Idaho State University Press, Pocatello. 78 pp. Price unknown.

McDowell, S. B.

1979. A catalogue of the snakes of New Guinea and the Solomons, with special reference to those in the Bernice P. Bishop Museum. Part III. Boinae and Acrochordiodea (Reptilia, Serpentes). Journ. Herp., 13(1):1-92.

Mulder, J., Hauser, J. and A. Smith

197. Guidelines for the use of anesthetics, anagesics, and tranquilizers for laboratory animals. Univ. Kans., Lawrence. 20 pp. \$1.25, Animal Care Unit, 513 Haworth.

Noeske, T. A. and M. A. Nickerson

1979. Diel activity rhythms in the hellbender, Cryptobranchus alleganiensis (Caudata, Cryptobranchidae). Copeia, 1979(1):92-95.

PYTHON BREEDING MANUAL AVAILABLE

The Python Breeding Manual, published by the Institute for Herpetological Research, is now available. A compilation of a two year, world-wide survey on captive propagation of pythons, the manual is divided into four sections. The first section presents specific breeding data on eighteen species of pythons, including mating, egg-laying and hatching seasons, as well as other relevant data. The second section discusses methods of inducing python breeding. The third and fourth sections discuss techniques of python egg incubation and incubator design and construction. General recommendations and other useful information for the python breeder are also included. The cost of the Python Breeding Manual is \$6.00 U.S., plus \$2.50 U.S. air or

\$1.25 U.S. surface for mailing and handling. Address inquiries to:

Richard Ross, M.D., Director
Institute for Herpetological Research
P.O. Box 2227
Stanford, California 94305 USA

* * * * *

HERPS OBSERVED OR COLLECTED DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1979

RED-EARED SLIDER - Mike Berka observed one in Fall Creek just west of Caldwell in Sumner County on Saturday, 24 March 1979. The temperature was about 50°F. at the time and it was a sunny afternoon.

Larry Miller collected an adult at a farm pond located south of Wellington, Kansas in Sumner County the morning of 25 March 1979. The temperature was about 55°F. and the large adult was found on the bank. The sky was clear.

COMMON SNAPPING TURTLES - Michelle Warner observed one in Fall Creek located west of Caldwell, Kansas the afternoon of 25 March 1979. It was a sunny afternoon and the temperature was about 65°F.

Leslie Rice observed one in Spring Creek near Corbin, Kansas in Sumner County the afternoon of 25 March 1979. Sunny and warm, about 65°F.

BLACKRAT SNAKES - Larry Miller observed four in an old rock well located northeast of South Haven, Kansas the morning of 25 March 1979. The temperature was about 55°F. and it was a sunny day. The snakes were not very active and all were adults over 1.5 meters long.

TIGER SALAMANDER - Dani Williams collected an adult Tiger Salamander the afternoon of 12 January 1979 as it was crossing an icy road southwest of Caldwell, Kansas near the Oklahoma border in Sumner County. The temperature was about 33°F. and it was a sunny day. There was an area in the snow near where the salamander was found where some other animal had been digging.

DIAMONDBACK WATERSNAKE - A young snake of this species was killed by a dog and then collected by Tonia Mercer the evening of 26 March 1979. The snake was found west of Caldwell and the temperature was about 48°F. The sky was clear. There was water in the ditches near the snake.

RED MILK SNAKE - A young snake near Clinton Lake was collected on 18 March 1979 by Hank Guarisco.

SMALLMOUTH SALAMANDERS --- Several of these amphibians were observed (20-25) crossing a paved road west of Caldwell, Kansas during heavy rains during evening hours on several different nights during the last week of February and the first week of March 1979. The area where most were observed is about two kilometers west of town. The times most were observed were between 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM. Most were observed while it was raining and at temperatures between 45-50°F.

LEOPARD FROGS - Danny Goodman observed a leopard frog near Fall Creek west of Caldwell the afternoon of 24 March 1979. The temperature was about 50°F. and it was a clear day. The frog was quite active.

NOBODY WOULD DEFEND A SNAKE ... OR WOULD THEY?

Apparently J. E. Turner, a Caldwell dentist, thought no one would ever defend snakes when a letter to the local paper in response to a paid advertisement against the Oklahoma Rattlesnake Hunts. The advertisement against the Oklahoma Rattlesnake Hunts appeared on the front page of the Caldwell Messenger on 22 January 1979. Turner's letter appeared under the "Letters to the Editor" section on 1 February 1979.

In part Turner said, "Snakes are really a very disagreeable and slimy bunch of vermin." He said the S.O.S. in the advertisement should not mean SAVE OUR SNAKES, but in his way of thinking it should mean "STOMP OUR SNAKES."

Turner's letter apparently was an effort to make fun of certain people by using snakes. He must really have been proud of himself and surely he never thought anyone would ever seriously make fun of his remarks.

Well, Turner was wrong! The Messenger received no less than half a dozen responses to Turner's letter. The responses were from a variety of people from both the Caldwell area and as far away as Lawrence, Kansas. Every letter favored the snakes and every letter criticized Turner for using snakes in his attempt to be funny.

The letters printed in the local paper were not the only reactions to Turner's letter of 1 February. People of all ages from the Caldwell area continued to talk about Turner's letter for weeks. Some people still talk about all of the letters and even refer to 1979 as "THE YEAR OF THE SNAKES" in Caldwell, Kansas.

--LARRY MILLER, 524 North Osage St., Caldwell, Kansas

CHIKASKIA RIVER WILDLIFE STUDY TRIP

The third annual CHIKASKIA RIVER WILDLIFE STUDY was held 13-15 April 1979 along the Chikaskia River north of highway 81 between South Haven and Caldwell, Kansas. Participants camped on land owned by Freeman Dillard just north of the Chikaskia River bridge on highway 81.

An organized field trip was held Friday morning at 11:00 AM and another on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 PM. Everyone enjoyed the interesting plant and animal life of the area and had a wonderful time.

--LARRY MILLER, 524 North Osage St., Caldwell, Kansas

KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY GRANT PROPOSAL TO SSAR

In response to the SSAR Grants in Herpetology program, the KHS drafted the following proposal and submitted it to the Regional Societies section of that program.

It was felt that the wide publicity generated by distribution of this pamphlet would be a boon to KHS in terms of acquiring new membership, and would indicate to the general public the presence of a society such as ours, concerned with the wildlife of our state.

** In March 1978 the state of Kansas took a giant step forward in the protection of its native fauna by enacting legislation protecting endangered and threatened species within the state. The status of these species was determined by appropriate committees, comprised of biologists from various agencies. The committees were appointed and charged by the Kansas Academy of Science and the Kansas Fish and Game Commission.

Among the species that were determined by committees to fall into the above-mentioned two categories were six species of amphibians and reptiles. Since the passage of this legislation, the list of protected species has appeared in only three publications, all of which have limited distribution within (and without) Kansas.

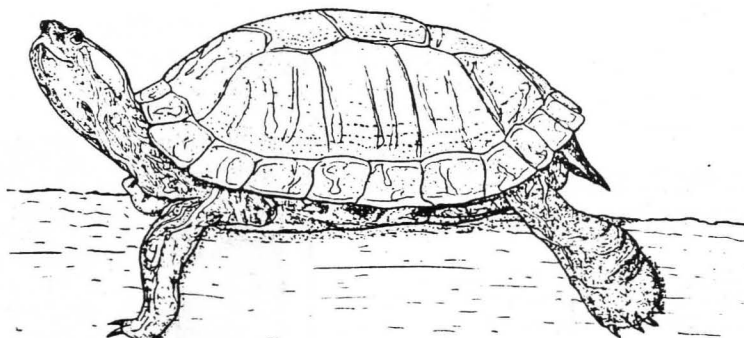
In order to bring to the attention of the people of Kansas the presence of this list of protected amphibians and reptiles, the Kansas Herpetological Society feels that a public service would be accomplished by the publication of a two-page brochure concerning these six species. This brochure would include black-and-white photographs of all six species, small distribution maps showing their ranges in Kansas, some aspects of the biology of these animals, and brief identifying characteristics. This brochure would be distributed by the KHS, free of charge, throughout Kansas and neighboring states.

Estimates from a local printer indicate that 5000 copies of this two-page brochure can be printed for \$200.00.

The Kansas Herpetological Society formally requests that this grant proposal for \$200.00 be submitted to the appropriate individual for consideration as a Regional Herpetological Society grant from the SSAR to the KHS.

With this grant, the Kansas Herpetological Society will be able to perform a valuable public service to the people of Kansas, and further the cause of protecting the endangered and threatened amphibians and reptiles of our state.

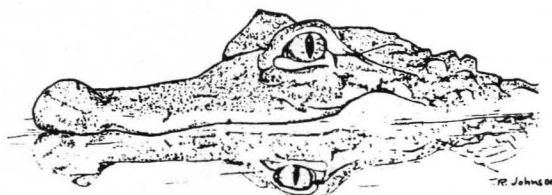
Should this grant proposal be funded, the monies will be administered by the KHS Secretary-Treasurer who will submit to the SSAR an accounting of its use. A KHS representative will be in attendance at the SSAR annual meeting at Knoxville in August. **



PROPOSITION HERPTILE

The following excerpted from the Los Angeles Times, 23 Sept. 1977, Part II, Page 6:

California Governor Brown vetoed a bill to extend until 1980 permission to import meat from pen-reared green sea turtles from Grand Cayman Is. In doing so, Brown stated, "Green sea turtles make soup, steak, pretty shells and cosmetic oil. Once there were tens of millions, now there are only thousands making their mysterious voyage through the seas from nesting beaches to distant feeding grounds. Some say farming green sea turtles in captivity will bring them back. Others see such commercial ventures as just expanding the appetite for this threatened creature. I incline to the latter and believe what turtles need is less people taking their eggs and depleting their species."



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Monograph No. 7. William E. Duellman (editor). Approx.
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Lawrence, Kansas, in August 1977. Sixteen chapters by
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and Australia, Quaternary biogeography of South America,
regional analyses of herpetofaunas, and conservation.

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Lawrence 66045. Include 50¢ for handling for each copy
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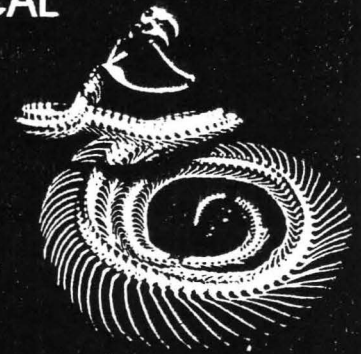
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SSAR ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

The 22nd annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles will be held in conjunction with the 27th annual meeting of the Herpetologist's League at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, from 12 to 16 August 1979.

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

- Sunday, 12 August Registration, SSAR Board of Directors Meeting, HL Board Meeting, Third Annual Regional Herp Society Conference (SSAR), Liaison Committee Meeting
- Monday, 13 August Contributed Papers, Iguanine Lizard Behavior and Ecology Symposium (SSAR), Social
- Tuesday, 14 August Contributed Papers, Iguanine Lizard Behavior and Ecology Symposium (SSAR), Captive Reptile and Amphibian Management Symposium (SSAR), Picnic, SSAR General Business Meeting
- Wednesday, 15 August Contributed Papers, Desmognathine Salamander Systematics Workshop (HL), HL Business Meeting
- Thursday, 16 August Contributed Papers, Salamander Mimicry Symposium (HL)

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

Herpetological Art Show and Crafts Show and Sale. Depending on interest: Spouse and family trips to Biltmore Mansion (Asheville, North Carolina); Gatlinburg, Tennessee; University of Tennessee Arboretum and the Museum of Atomic Energy, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Daytime child care may be available if demand warrants it.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Pre-registration forms, including call for papers and other information, will be mailed to members of the two societies in February. Copies of the meeting information will be sent on request to interested persons.

Housing in air-conditioned dormitories will be available.

Transportation: Individuals planning to travel by air should make reservations into McGee-Tyson Airport in Knoxville.

LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:

Arthur C. Echternacht, Department of Zoology and Graduate Program in Ecology, Walters Life Science Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916, Phone: (615) 974-6041.

ARE YOU CERTAIN THAT THE SPECIMENS YOU OBTAINED
ON YOUR LAST COLLECTING TRIP WERE NOT PROTECTED OR CONTROLLED
BY STATE REGULATIONS?

Did you realize that Alabama regulates the collection of 221 plant and 377 animal species, Michigan controls 117 species, Oklahoma controls 351 species, and the list continues. The majority of States have regulations which apply to the acquisition of scientific specimens.

Determining what species are controlled in various States is difficult and time consuming. In order to help you deal with this problem, The Association of Systematics Collections will soon be making available a:

Directory of State Protected Species:
A reference to species controlled by non-game regulations.

This directory contains listings of regulated plant and animal species for each of the 50 states and the Virgin Islands. In addition, for each state, the Directory of State Protected Species includes:

1. Federal Endangered or Threatened status for all state listed species.
2. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) status for all of the state listed species.
3. State/Federal endangered species cooperative agreement information.
4. Requirements for scientific collecting permits.
5. Address and telephone number for state permit granting agencies.

If you are involved in the collection or acquisition of plants and/or animals within the United States for scientific purposes; or if you work for any of the zoos, museums, or Universities with active collecting programs, this is an invaluable source of information.

This Directory is available to persons affiliated with ASC member institutions for \$17.50. The price for persons not affiliated with ASC member institutions, until 1 April 1979 is 37.50; after 1 April 1979 it will be \$50.00.

ORDER FORM

Please send me _____ copies of ASC's Directory of State Protected Species: A reference to species controlled by non-game regulations at _____ per copy.

SEND TO:

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Museum of Natural History
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045 (913/864-4867)



THE AUSTRALASIAN AFFILIATION OF HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

The Affiliation was formally established in 1977 to encourage the scientific study of amphibians and reptiles, and their habitats, to publish the journal Herpetofauna, to promote liaison between the member societies through conventions, publications and field work, and to represent the interests of its member societies.

It is a non-profit organization with the prime executive purpose of pooling the publishing resources of herpetological societies in the Australasian Region. Five societies have to date joined the Affiliation (four in Australia and one in New Zealand); there are two other herpetological societies in the Region and they have been invited to participate.

PUBLICATIONS

Member societies bulk subscribe to Herpetofauna on behalf of their members, and it is posted out direct. Overseas and Australasian herpetologists who do not belong to one of the affiliated societies can subscribe direct to the Affiliation. As Australasian herp keepers manual is in preparation and other special Regional publications are planned.

CONVENTIONS

In April 1978, the first very successful four day convention was held at Wilcannia in far western New South Wales. Sixteen delegates attended from Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney; the seminar sessions and field work were most productive. Many common problems were resolved and a fruitful exchange of ideas occurred.

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF HERPETOLOGISTS

The Australian Society of Herpetologists is a scientific organization whose aims are to promote the study and conservation of amphibians and reptiles. Membership is open to professional scientists and scientifically-interested amateurs who are engaged in some aspect of herpetological research.

The Society publishes a Newsletter two or three times a year. The Newsletter contains news of members, lists of recent literature relevant to Australian herpetology, and other items of general herpetological interest. The Society also encourages dissemination of information among members by means of regular meetings, usually held in conjunction with the meetings of The Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science.

Subscription to the Society is \$A2.00 per annum (two Australian dollars). Overseas subscriptions should be in the form of a bank draft or cheque;

personal cheques are not acceptable. The subscription covers membership dues and receipt of the Newsletter.

Application for membership, accompanied by a cheque for \$A2.00 (International cheque please), should be forwarded to:

Margaret Davies, Secretary-Treasurer
Department of Zoology
University of Adelaide
North Terrace
Adelaide, South Australia
AUSTRALIA 5000

CONGRATULATIONS TOM!

Joseph T. Collins, Vertebrate Zoologist in the Museum of Natural History at KU was chosen as Classified Employee of the Year for 1979. He was presented with a trophy and a check at ceremonies held in the Student Union on 24 April 1979.

Congratulations, Tom; you can spring for coffee and donuts at the upcoming KHS annual meeting.

