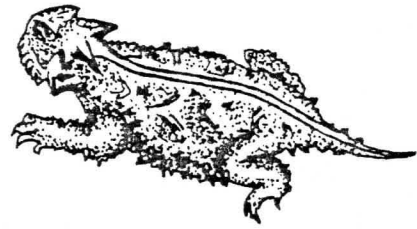


KANSAS
HERPETOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER



NUMBER 42

APRIL 1981

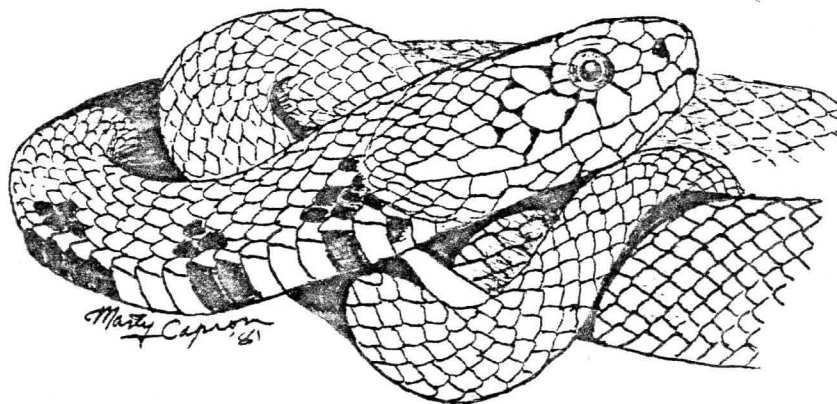
FIRST SPRING FIELD TRIP TO BE HELD AT CLARK COUNTY STATE LAKE

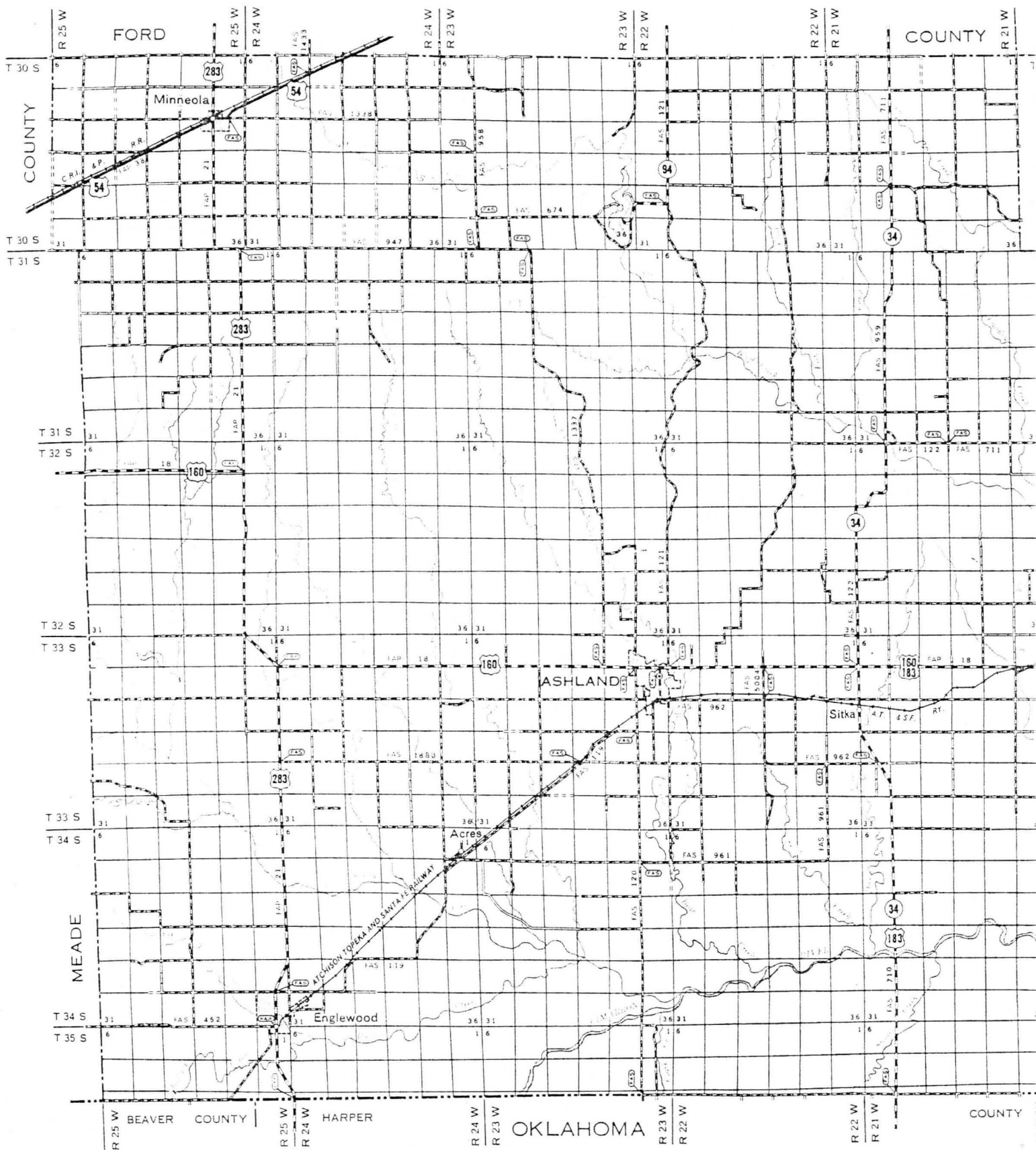
The first Kansas Herpetological Society field trip for 1981 will meet jointly with the Kansas Association of Biology Teachers on 1-3 May 1981 at Clark County State Lake. The lake is 14 miles north of Ashland, the county seat; and, is situated in a beautiful valley of dramatic rock outcrops. Many southwestern herps reach their northern limit in this area. Some of these include: the New Mexico blind snake (Leptotyphlops dulcis dissecta), the Texas night snake (Hypsiglena ochrorhyncha texana), the Texas long-nosed snake (Rhinocheilus lecontei tessellatus), the checkered garter snake (Thamnophis marcianus), and, the southern prairie skink (Eumeces septentrionalis obtusirostris). We may also find the red-spotted toad (Bufo punctatus) and the Kansas glossy snake (Arizona elegans elegans). The lake has camp sites so bring your tents and sleeping bags, and enjoy the beautiful scenery of southwestern Kansas. (Included is a map of the area).

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SECOND SPRING FIELD TRIP TO BE HELD AT LOGAN COUNTY STATE LAKE

The second Kansas Herpetological Society field trip will be held at Logan County State Lake on 15-17 May 1981. The lake is 4 miles west, and 1 mile north of Russell Springs, which is located in the high plains of west-central Kansas. Since Logan County is poorly known herpetologically, the KHS could greatly enhance our knowledge of this area. More than ten county records are possible, and, some common species have yet to be recorded from this county. If luck is with us, it may rain enough to bring out the rare western green toad (Bufo debilis insidiosus). Bring your camping gear and food and be prepared for a profitable trip. See you there. (Included is a map of the area).



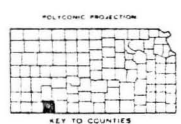
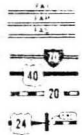


LEGEND

ROADS AND ROADWAY FEATURES

- PRIMITIVE ROAD
- UNIMPROVED ROAD
- GRADED AND DRAINED ROAD
- SOIL SURFACED ROAD
- GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD - NOT GRADED OR DRAINED
- GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD - GRADED AND DRAINED
- GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD WITH STABILIZED SURFACE
- BITUMINOUS ROAD - LOW TYPE PAVED ROAD
- SHULDER ROADWAY
- ROADWAY WITH FULL CONTROL OF TRAFFIC

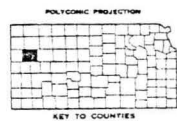
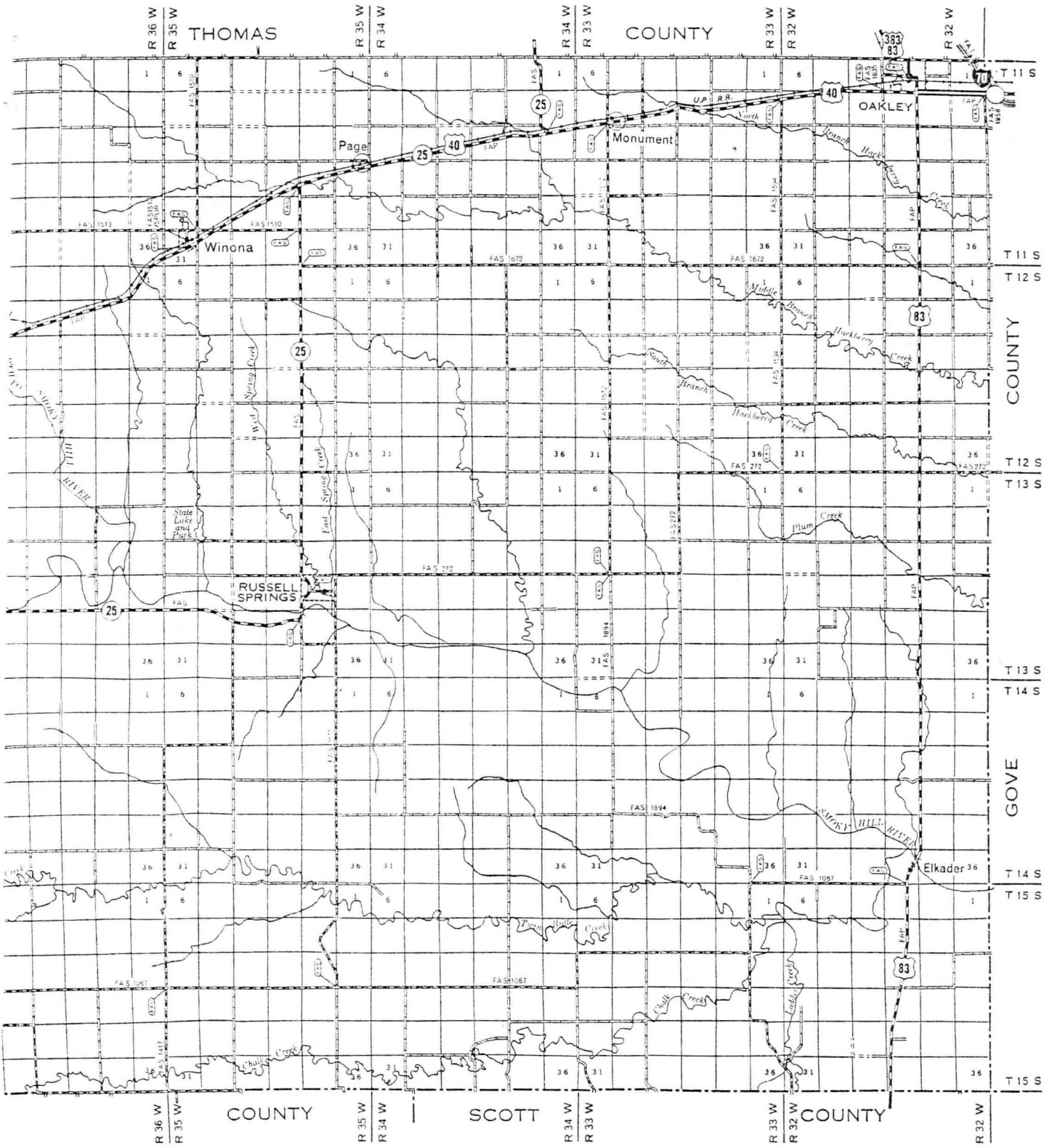
- FEDERAL AID INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM
- FEDERAL AID PRIMARY HIGHWAY SYSTEM
- FEDERAL AID SECONDARY HIGHWAY SYSTEM
- INTERSTATE NUMBERED HIGHWAY
- U.S. NUMBERED HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM OR STATE NUMBERED HIGHWAY
- END OF DESIGNATED SYSTEM OR MARKED ROUTE



**GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP
CLARK COUNTY
KANSAS**

PREPARED BY THE
STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

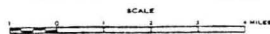
F.A. SYSTEMS REVISED TO JULY 1, 1976



1970

GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP LOGAN COUNTY KANSAS

PREPARED BY THE
STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION



FIFTH ANNUAL REPTILE SYMPOSIUM ON CAPTIVE PROPAGATION & HUSBANDRY

The fifth Annual Reptile Symposium on Captive Propagation and Husbandry will be held on Friday through Sunday, June 12, 13, and 14, 1981, at the Oklahoma City Zoo, Oklahoma. Papers are still being accepted by Dr. Marten J. Rosenberg, Case Western University, Biology Department, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. The symposium coordinator is Thomas Huff, Director, Reptile Breeding Foundation, P.O. Box 1450 Picton, Ontario, Canada K0K2T0. Information with regard to accommodations should be addressed to Darell Pickering, Oklahoma City Zoo, 2101 N.E. 50th, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111.

-----Richard A. Hahn, Publicity Chairman, Fifth Annual Reptile Symposium

* * * * *

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING OF SSAR & HL TO BE HELD IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

The 24th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR) and the 29th Annual Meeting of the Herpetologist's League (HL) will be held jointly at Memphis State University from 9-14 August 1981. The featured symposium is entitled, "Reproductive Biology of Reptiles," and will consist of about twenty-five to thirty papers presented by an international group of experts.

In addition, the fifth Annual SSAR Regional Herpetological Societies Conference will feature papers dealing with the growing problem of introduced alien amphibians and reptiles.

An exhibit of live local amphibians and reptiles will be available for viewing and photographing during the meetings. In addition, an extensive slide show of North American amphibians and reptiles will be presented and a herpetological art exhibit is planned. Other activities include, a tour of the Memphis Zoo and Aquarium, the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery, and the Museum and Planetarium. Daytime child care may be available if there is sufficient demand. One of the few captive pairs of breeding African dwarf crocodiles in the world will be on display at the zoo.

A reduced, regular pre-registration fee of \$25, or a student fee of \$15, is due no later than June 5. Send checks to Memphis State University, Continuing Education, P.O. Box 81360, Memphis State University, Memphis, TN 38152. The regular registration fee at the meetings will be \$30, with a student fee of \$20. For information concerning the regional society meeting, contact John Murphy, 201 Peerless Dr., Plainfield, ILL 60544. The featured symposium is being organized by Laurie J. Vitt, Museum of Natural History, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602 and James S Jacob, Memphis State University.

* * * * *

KHS MARCH MEETING AT SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO A GREAT SUCCESS

Over fifty members and friends of the Kansas Herpetological Society gathered at the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita for the first meeting of the year. Dr. Robert F. Clarke gave a fascinating slide presentation of his travels through Mexico and the southwestern deserts of the United States. The main emphasis of the presentation was the unique lizard fauna that is found in these areas. Next, Peter Gray, a graduate student in herpetology at the University of Kansas and former president of the KHS, gave us a wonderful presentation of the Dendrobatid frogs of tropical America. There is still much to be learned about this diverse group. Some of the slides showed frogs that are new to science and have not even been described yet.



(Photo of KHS auctioneer, J.T. Collins taken by Jill Risley)

After lunch, the KHS held the annual auction to generate funds for the publication of a brochure on the rare and endangered reptiles and amphibians of Kansas. Many different items of herpetological interest were auctioned off, including snake bags, hooks, and cages. Other items that were donated consisted of art works, publications, books and reprints, live and frozen mice and rats (including a special

strain of totally hairless mice), and several engraving plates depicting the type specimen of species of herps described by Edward Taylor. The auction brought in \$200, and was a lot of fun for all who participated. On behalf of the KHS I would like to thank those people who donated items for the auction, those that bid on these items, and, Joseph T. Collins for doing an excellent job as our auctioneer.

After the auction, we were able to see the beautiful Sedgwick County Zoo, including a behind-the-scenes tour of the herpetarium. This ended a wonderful day and the first KHS meeting of the year.

* * * * *

SHORTSIGHTED RESPONSE TO ENDANGERED SPECIES LEGISLATION

The following ad appeared in the February/March 1981 catalogue from Pet Ranch Imports of Tucson, Arizona:

"URGENT: ENDANGERED SPECIES REPORT; ABOUT YOU:

Washington DC:Effective immediately the United States Government has declared all dealers of non-domestic forms of wildlife to be injurious to the animal kingdom. These dealers must be stopped and are therefore to be eliminated and placed on the 'endangered specie(s) list.' Quoting a recent comment made by President Carter, 'Trade in wildlife and plants has several very serious consequences. It can introduce exotic diseases, threatening agriculture. It creates a market for thousands of species of wildlife and plants taken in violation of the laws of foreign nations, ultimately threatening the survival of the specie(s). It is a danger to the survival of hundreds of species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, to which the United States is a signatory nation.'

'I am therefore submitting to Congress a bill to overcome obstacles inhibiting law enforcement efforts.'

'In addition, I am directing the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, Justice, and Treasury to investigate this trade aggressively and to prosecute violators of the law.'

So what does this all mean to us. Well right now there are numerous bills and regulations pending which are designed to make us the Endangered Species, not the animals. There are even bills pending that could send you to prison for selling any wildlife which was in violation of the country of origin's laws. How ridiculous. How is

anyone here supposed to know all of the laws of the countries of all of the wildlife being sold in the United States.

How can we stop this action against us? By participating in an active program of joining an association that will serve and protect your needs. At the moment there appears to be two choices in our industry, PIJAC (Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council) and the IBI (International Bird Institute). Both will serve you well. If you are carrying mainly birds then join the IBI. If you do not carry a large amount of birds, but carry other animals then join PIJAC.

The IBI and PIJAC are here to stay. We may not be without their help. Fill out one of the applications we have provided and mail it to your choice today. Don't wait. Our days are numbered."

Misrepresentation of facts and blatant falsehoods may be acceptable for some pet dealers' advertisements; however, I cannot believe responsible and informed individuals would pay attention to this type of advertising campaign.

-----Thomas J. Berger, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045

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KHS DUES NOTICE REMINDER

If you have not already paid your dues (\$4.00) for 1981, please send a check to the secretary/treasurer, Larry Miller, 524 North Osage, Caldwell, KS 67022. It is essential that we receive your dues promptly to cover the cost of the newsletter. If you do not remember if you have paid your dues, write to Larry to find out.

* * * * *

TENTATIVE PLANS FOR REGIONAL FIELD TRIPS OF THE KHS IN JULY

Due to increase in the costs of gasoline and the expected dry weather during the month of July, the KHS has tentatively decided to hold several regional field trips instead of one central meeting for the entire state. Larry Miller has offered to organize a meeting for those members in the Sumner, Harper, Cowley, Butler, Sedgwick, Kingman, Reno, and Harvey County area. Another trip could be organized for those members in the eastern part of the state in southeastern Kansas, and, maybe another one in the western part of the state. Please write to Larry Miller if you are interested in this idea for the July meeting.

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A CHECKLIST OF THE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF SUMNER COUNTY, KANSAS

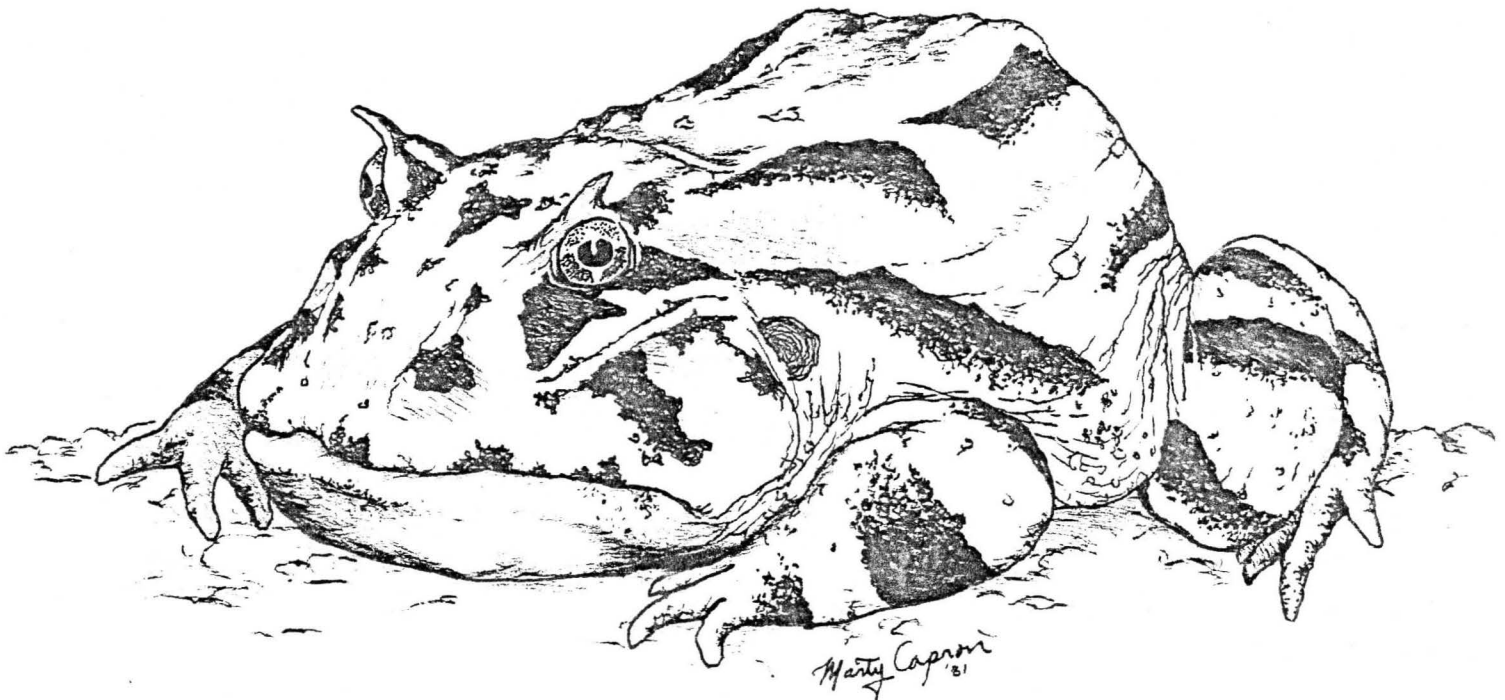
A checklist giving the amphibians and reptiles known to occur in Sumner County, Kansas has been prepared by the Caldwell Elementary School fifth and sixth grade science classes. The list gives the common names of the two known salamanders, nine frogs and toads, eight turtles, six lizards, and twenty-three snakes known to occur in the southcentral Kansas county.

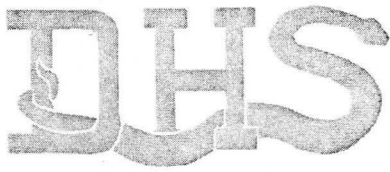
Information for the checklist has been collected from publications of the State Biological Survey of Kansas and the book, Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas, written by Joseph T. Collins of Lawrence, Kansas.

Caldwell students have been working to improve the knowledge of the amphibians and reptiles of their area since early 1975. Since that time, they have collected dozens of animals from different parts of the county. Many of the animals they collected were recorded as new records for the county. Since 1975, the students have also collected, observed, and/or written about nearly all of the forty-eight species known to occur in the county.

The checklist will be available after 1 April 1981. It will list each species known to occur in the county at that time. Interested persons may receive a copy by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Larry Miller, Sixth Grade Teacher, U.S.D. # 360, Caldwell, Kansas 67022

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DALLAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

February 19, 1981

As midwinter passes, all herpetologists, both amateur and professional alike, begin to view the advent of spring with rising anticipation. All of us look forward to our own activities in the field and in our collections with the knowledge of the renewed activity that the season will bring. We, the members of the Dallas Herpetological Society, would like to present our sincere wishes that all your endeavors be fruitful.

The coming of spring will bring at least one thing, however, that will not gladden the hearts of herpetologists, conservationists or naturalists of any kind - the annual exploitation of rattlesnakes throughout the south and southwest due to the "Rattlesnake Roundups."

In many towns and communities, people band together in the name of festival and camaraderie to conduct a twofold purpose: to make money and to kill rattlesnakes. They end up, however, ravaging habitat and killing many species of irreplaceable animals. We object to the practice, and we hope that you, though many of you are not as closely subjected to these proceedings as we are here in Texas, share our distaste and will join in an effort to put an end to them now.

Of the many avenues open to us in the "fight for life" for these animals, none seems to offer more in the way of immediate success than to have the people who organize and run these "Rattlesnake Roundups" and their practices exposed to the public via a "Tell the Truth" program such as "20/20." Even the most disinterested individual would be moved by TV scenes of these "good ol' boys" gassing, mishandling, torturing, and generally abusing so many animals en masse.

It is our belief that if all interested persons would write a letter to "20/20" outlining the crimes against nature which the "Rattlesnake Roundups" promote and showing their own personal dislike for these acts, it would serve to motivate the gentlemen at "20/20" to engineer such an expose' as would be beneficial to the cause of environmental awareness and humanity throughout the country.

The time to act is now. Please solicit each one of your members to write a letter and to have their friends and relatives write letters. In order to have the proper impact, these letters must come from all corners of the country and from throughout the entire social spectrum. In memory of the many dedicated people and organizations who have put so much effort into condemning the "Rattlesnake Roundups" and in horrid anticipation of the "Rattlesnake Roundups" continuing until certain species are erased, it is our duty as responsible herpers to make this small effort.

While there is some theatrical benefit to hitting the offices of "20/20" with thousands of letters in one day, we feel that such an effort would be difficult, if not impossible, to coordinate. But with spring coming nearer every day, there is a deadline to keep, so some speed is essential. We would like to have all the letters in the mail by March 1st or as soon as possible thereafter. This would enable "20/20" to cover and produce an essay during the "Rattlesnake Roundups" peak season.

Enclosed are three items: "20/20's" mailing address, "Rattlesnake Roundups" Do's and Do Not's and a brief outline of what "Rattlesnake Roundups" are. These should be read to your society, to better acquaint your members with the "Rattlesnake Roundups" and should be made available to all persons interested in writing letters. The other item is a sheet to be filled out and returned to our society as soon as possible. This is a form to help us get an idea of just how many people took part in this endeavor and to acquire suggestions on similar future attempts.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Wuerch".

Doug Wuerch
President

20/20 ABC
1330 Avenue of the Americas
New York City, N.Y. 10019

"Rattlesnake Roundups" Must Be Stopped!

- I. "Rattlesnake Roundups" offer prizes (publicity and money) that promote mass collecting and accumulation of rattlesnakes
 - A. Main prizes are for "most rattlesnakes turned in" and "most pounds of rattlesnakes turned in"
 - B. Majority of rattlesnakes collected are not collected during time of "Rattlesnake Roundups" or in area of "Rattlesnake Roundups". Snakes are collected all over Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.
 - C. Prizes create situation where rattlers are collected in advance of hunts and stockpiled
 1. Such animals generally are not fed or watered
 2. Animals are usually stored in large numbers in solid plywood boxes with poor ventilation
 3. Dead and decomposing rattlesnakes are often cage mates with live rattlesnakes waiting for "Rattlesnake Roundup" time
- II. Method of collecting numbers of rattlesnakes cruel and ecologically disastrous
 - A. Main method of finding rattlesnakes is to put gas fumes in holes and cracks in the ground
 1. This kills all insects, arachnids, amphibians, and many reptiles, mammals and burrow-nesting birds - affects thousands of animals for every rattlesnake that comes to the surface
 2. Causes mechanical pneumonia in many of the rattlesnakes
 - B. Main method of capture of rattlesnakes is with clamp-tongs which cause pain and injury to rattlesnakes
- III. "Rattlesnake Roundups" are dangerous
 - A. Participants are regularly bitten, during the "Rattlesnake Roundups", and during practices held during the year
 - B. Members of audience have been bitten in past "Rattlesnake Roundups"
 - C. Some of the snakes that live until "Rattlesnake Roundup" time, and survive the "Rattlesnake Roundups" themselves, are slaughtered for hides; the rest become stock for next year

"Rattlesnake Roundups" Do

- damage or destroy "balance of nature" in extensively collected areas
- create a situation resulting in increase of rattlesnake bites, both on participants and on audience
- cause the needless torture and slow death of the thousands of rattlesnakes collected in advance of hunts, and stored without food and/or water, for as long as two years
- pass out poor or false information about rattlesnakes to those attending hunts
- systematically degrade and injure living creatures by the foolish and dangerous handling tricks performed by rattlesnake club members, as well as set a dangerous example to those in attendance, particularly children
- promote financial gain without consideration for ecological destruction

"Rattlesnake Roundups" Do Not

- reduce livestock loss due to venomous snake bite (there are no official figures that indicate there has ever been a significant loss)
- reduce number of bites on human beings (in fact "Rattlesnake Roundups" increase the number)
- supply rattlesnakes to research centers or venom-producing farms
- supply useful venom for research

"Rattlesnake Roundups" have been condemned by every major humane society, and we feel the general public would also, if they were educated properly.

UNITED STATES FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE ALLOWS NATIONWIDE SALE OF ALLIGATOR MEAT

The Service has revised the special rule on the American alligator (Alligator mississippiensis) allowing the nationwide sale of meat and other parts, except hides, from lawfully taken specimens (F.R. 11/25/80). Under the revised rule, fabricators who manufacture products from American alligator leather are no longer required to obtain a permit. After reviewing public comments on the proposed rule (F.R. 8/8/80 - see the August 1980 Bulletin), the Service decided that no substantive changes to the proposed rule were necessary.

Although fabricators are no longer required to obtain a permit, buyers and tanners engaging in trade in American alligators remain highly regulated. This is to insure that only lawfully taken specimens enter the market. Basically, American alligator meat and other parts, except hides, may be sold nationwide if the sale is in accordance with the laws and regulations of the state in which the taking occurs and the state in which the sale occurs.

A number of conditions must be satisfied in order for harvested alligators to reach the market place: 1) the untanned hide may be sold or transferred only to a person holding a valid Federal permit to buy hides, 2) the hide must be tagged by the state where the taking occurs with a noncorrodible, serially numbered tag which identifies the state, 3) the tag number, length of skin, type of skin, and date and place of taking must be recorded with the state, and 4) packages or containers for shipping American alligator must have an identifying tag or label on the outside.

Any person wishing to engage in the activities of a buyer or tanner must first apply for a Federal permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service will issue a permit based on, among other things, the applicant's reliability and apparent ability and willingness to keep an accurate inventory and records of all American alligator hides, and all hides of any other species of the order Crocodylia handled by the applicant.

Because fabricators are no longer required to obtain a permit or attach labels to manufactured products, the Service is offering to refund, at the original cost of 30¢ each, for a period ending 90 days from December 22, 1980, their unused labels (F.R. 12/22/80). To receive the refund, return unused labels, arranged in numerical sequence and accompanied by an inventory of labels being returned, to the Federal Wildlife Permit Office, P.O. Box 3654, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

-----Endangered Species Technical Bulletin VI(1):10, January 1981.

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FLATBACK SEA TURTLE MAY GAIN MORE PROTECTION

The U.S. strongly favors Australia's proposal to transfer the flatback sea turtle (Chelonia depressa) and the Australian population of the green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas) from Appendix II to Appendix I. While the population status of these animals does not qualify them for inclusion in Appendix I on biological grounds, it is evident that effective control of trade in other sea turtles requires such listing. Chelonia mydas populations are protected as Endangered and as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (see August 1978 BULLETIN).

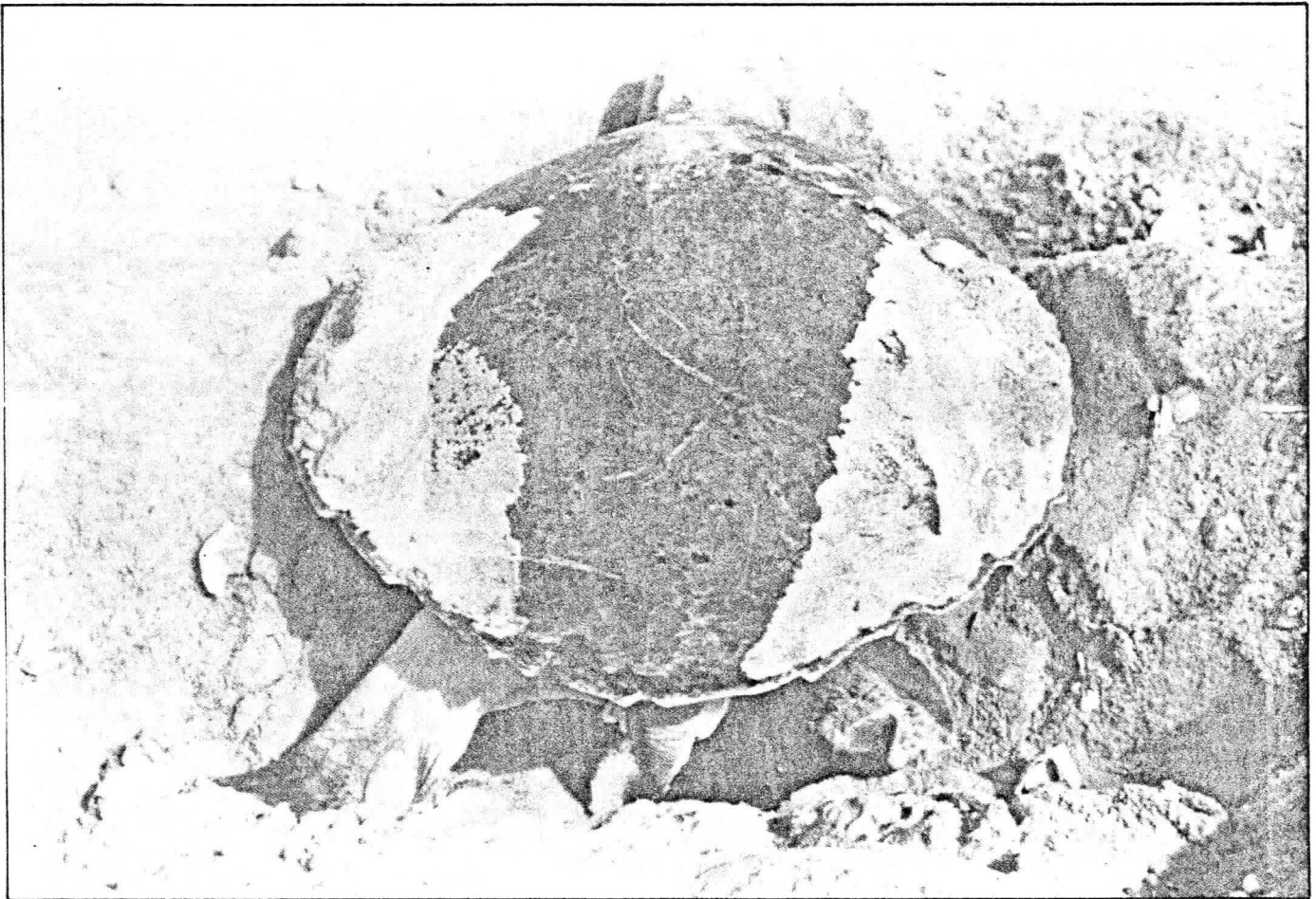


Photo by Colin Limpus

The Commonwealth of Australia has proposed to place the flatback sea turtle (Chelonia depressa) on Appendix I of CITES. This action, which was also recommended by the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation, would assist in the control of trade in other sea turtles.

-----Endangered Species Technical Bulletin VI(1):8-9, January 1981.

 AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN KANSAS, 2. THE RED-SPOTTED TOAD (BUFO PUNCTATUS)

The red-spotted toad is a nocturnal animal that is associated with dry, desert and scrub areas of the southwest. In Kansas it is found in the canyons and prairies of the southwestern counties that border Oklahoma. The adult toad averages 1 1/4 to 2 1/2 inches (30-62 mm) in length. Being an inhabitant of the Red Hills and the High Plains, it is an opportunistic breeder. After rains in the spring and summer, small numbers of red-spotted toads may be found in small pools and near streams. Breeding pairs have been observed in both May and June.

Larry Miller observed about fifteen to twenty males calling from the edge of a small pool with short grass. The air temperature was about 27 C and the water temperature was above this. It was a clear, windless night with a bright moon. As he drove further through Barber County, Larry heard many spadefoot toads (Scaphiopus sp.) and Woodhouse's toads (Bufo woodhousei), but did not find any more red-spotted toads. These observations occurred on the evening of May 23, 1980 at about 10:00 PM. Several days later, Larry returned to the same location, but did not find any red-spotted toads. Then on the evening of June 1, at about 10:00 PM, he heard them calling from the bank of a shallow stream. It was about 25 C and only a light breeze came from the south. After searching the surrounding areas, no other B. punctatus could be found.

Another observer reports the red-spotted toad from the Chihuahuan Desert of New Mexico, where the adults breed in isolated, rocky pools. After extensive field study, it was discovered that the spadefoot toads (Scaphiopus bombifrons and S. hammondi) were never found in the same pools as the red-spotted toads. Although the pools seem to be identical ecologically, tadpoles of B. punctatus never occurred with those of the spadefoot toads. This strongly suggests that the carnivorous spadefoot tadpoles eat the Bufo tadpoles. The authors believe that this is due to the barren nature of the breeding pools, and, because they are quite ephemeral. It would be of interest to see if this mutual exclusion is also seen in the breeding pools in Kansas. At least the preliminary observations of Larry Miller indicate that this may also be occurring in this state. This species has a wide range, extending into Mexico. Therefore, it would be of interest to discover if there were any differences in habitat utilization in different parts of the range.

Like other species of the genus Bufo, the red-spotted toad appears to feed upon a variety of insects



(Red-spotted toad, photo by Larry Miller)

-----Hank Guarisco, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045

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SURVEY OF MEXICAN BEACHES CONFIRMS LEATHERBACK NESTING

What may be the world's largest nesting grounds for the endangered leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) was observed in early November on the west coast of Mexico, according to the World Wildlife Fund-U.S. Dr. Peter C. H. Pritchard, director of the Fund's Marine Turtle Conservation Project and senior Vice President of the Florida Audubon Society, conducted an aerial survey of more than 600 miles of the Pacific coastline of Mexico and witnessed high density nesting in an area known to Mexican authorities as leatherback habitat. Leatherbacks were found nesting along about half of the surveyed area, roughly from the state of Oaxaca, southward.

Because of new figures resulting from this survey, the estimate for the number of adult breeding female leatherbacks in the world has increased from 29,000-40,000 to 104,000. Dr. Pritchard cautions that the new estimate merely reflects more accurate data, and not a safe population level. According to Dr. Pritchard, "Because of severe stresses on all major populations of the species, its endangered status is still considered justified.

The leatherback sea turtle is the largest of the world's marine turtles, weighing between 660 and 1,300 pounds as adults. This turtle is threatened by killing for local consumption and sale of meat and poaching of eggs. Their eggs are considered a delicacy wherever they are found, and leatherback oil is used to caulk boats in the Persian Gulf, Mexican law prohibits killing of leatherbacks, but the practice continues.

Observation of the leatherback nesting grounds was incidental to aerial surveys conducted for a project involving the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). Funded by the World Wildlife Fund-U.S. and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this project involves moving eggs to protected areas where they will have a greater chance of successful hatching. Left at unprotected natural sites, "virtually all of the eggs laid annually at these beaches would be lost," due to poachers, selling in local

markets, predation by dogs, or other natural factors, according to Dr. Pritchard. During the previous nesting season, almost 270,000 eggs had been moved to protected corrals on natural nesting beaches in Michoacan, Mexico. Of these, about 15,000 had been confiscated from poachers.

Dr. Pritchard reported that the presence of his small aircraft acted as a deterrent to illegal hunting. Virtually all daytime turtle hunting at sea was eliminated, as fishermen, mindful of the aircraft overhead, appeared to be afraid of being discovered and having their boats and motors confiscated.

In the U.S., the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which share federal responsibility for protecting sea turtles, have each designated critical habitat for the leatherback sea turtle. The only major leatherback nesting area under U.S. jurisdiction, Sandy Point Beach, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, was designated as critical habitat by the Fish and Wildlife Service (F.R. 9/26/78). NMFS designated the adjacent waters (F.R. 3/23/79) which are used for breeding and access to and from the nesting beach. The designations require federal agencies to insure that actions they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of these critical habitats.

As for other areas that may also be used by leatherbacks for nesting, Jack Woody of the service's Albuquerque Regional Office says there is suspected leatherback nesting in Central America, but there has not been time or funds available to investigate.

-----Endangered Species Technical Bulletin VI(3):3,6. March 1981.

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RECORD FINE PAID IN ENDANGERED SPECIES IMPORT CASE

In a case involving the use of a protected species of snake in the manufacture of shoes, a Massachusetts firm agreed to pay a fine of \$15,000 and forfeit 1,325 pairs of shoes which had been seized by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents. The \$15,000 fine, which was paid on January 6, 1981, is the largest penalty ever paid in an endangered species case in New England.

The case, which was settled out of court, involved the use of reticulated python (Python reticulatus), protected under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). On December 11, 1978, a shipment of boxes labeled "cobra" and containing "leather footwear for ladies," arrived in Boston for Joan and David Helpert, Inc. A U.S. Customs Inspector turned over several of the shoes to the Fish and Wildlife Service for examination. Experts from a local university and the Bronx Zoo determined that the leather used was not cobra, but rather reticulated python.

Based on these findings, the service's division of law enforcement decided to examine other shoes, invoices, and bills of lading at the Joan and David Helpern, Inc., warehouse. Agents determined that the Helpern firm imported from Italy, 1,983 pairs of shoes made from reticulated python from December 11, 1978 to February 13, 1979. Service agents seized 1,325 pairs of shoes estimated at a gross value of \$106,000.

The Department of the Interior's Regional Solicitor's Office charged the Helpern firm with 20 counts under the Endangered Species Act, including importing wildlife products through a non-designated port, failure to declare wildlife parts and products, and failure to provide proper documentation in the form of re-export permits required under the Act and the CITES.

-----Endangered Species Technical Bulletin VI(3):3 March 1981.

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NEW PUBLICATION: KANSAS NONGAME & ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

Marvin Schwilling, a KHS member and employee of the Kansas Fish and Game Commission has recently published an informative booklet entitled, "Kansas Non-game & Endangered Wildlife," in the Kansas School Naturalist, which is a quarterly publication of Emporia State University. Marvin has specialized in Kansas non-game and endangered wildlife for the past three years.

The booklet begins by defining nongame wildlife and the concept of an endangered species. Then it traces the pertinent legislation that directly affects nongame wildlife and endangered species. Among the interesting projects that have been undertaken include: a three-year study to determine the status of the black-footed ferret, monitoring the spring and fall migration of Whooping Cranes, assisting with the annual breeding bird surveys, distribution and ecological studies of the prairie falcon, cougar, swift fox, and the ferruginous hawk. Summaries of the accomplishments of these studies are provided in the nongame annual reports.

Copies of this interesting booklet may be obtained for 25¢ each by writing to the Kansas School Naturalist, Division of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas 66801.

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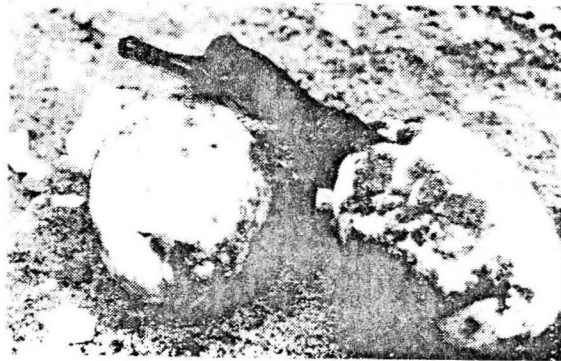
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