

KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NO. 78

November 1989

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRDS IN KANSAS VOLUME 1 — A New Book by Max C. Thompson and Charles Ely

Written by well known ornithologists Thompson (Southwestern College, Winfield) and Ely (Fort Hays State University, Hays), this first book of a planned two-volume set describes more than two hundred species of ducks, geese, gulls, herons, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, shorebirds, birds of prey, and other non-passerines (birds that neither perch nor "sing"). This is the bird field guide for Kansas, long awaited by ornithologists and biologists statewide and across the Great Plains. The second volume is already eagerly anticipated.

Published by the Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, this volume was co-sponsored and made possible in part by the Kansas Biological Survey and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. It is part of a series by the KU Museum of Natural History intended to provide thorough information on the natural history of all wildlife in Kansas. This handbook provides the reader with standard common and current scientific names, precise distribution maps (the first ever for Kansas), black-and-white photographs of over 175 species, and facts concerning reported occurrence, breeding, habits and habitats, field marks (for identification), and food preferences. The book consists of 320 pages, 178 photos, and 222 maps, and is available for \$25.00 cloth or \$14.95 paperback from: The University Press of Kansas, 329 Carruth, Lawrence, Kansas 66045.

Other books in the series, all edited by Joseph T. Collins and written in the same style and format, include *Fishes in Kansas* (Cross & Collins), *Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas Second Edition* (Collins), and *Mammals in Kansas* (Bee, Glass, Hoffmann, and Patterson). The authors of all books in this series are currently at work preparing new and revised editions of these handbooks, and they all should be issued within the next few years. Taken together, this is the first time in the history of our state that field guides for all the vertebrate animals are in print and available from one publisher. The Museum is to be congratulated for this milestone in Kansas natural history.

CCC Turning Turtle

Once again the Caribbean Conservation Corporation and Massachusetts Audubon Society are working together to recruit volunteers to work on sea turtle research projects being carried out from the Green Turtle Research Station, Tortuguero, Costa Rica.

This year's programs include research on nesting Leatherbacks and their hatchlings, as well as the summer tagging program on green turtles. The Leatherback studies are being headed up by James Spotila of Drexel University. The Green Turtle tagging is being conducted by the Center for Sea Turtle Research, University of Florida.

Trips start in March and continue through August, and range in price from \$1422 to \$1971 per person from Miami. For more information, contact:

Massachusetts Audubon Society
Natural History Travel
Lincoln, MA 01773
1-800-289-9504
1-607-259-9500

Now Available

The Inventory, Longevity, Breeding Notes — Reptiles & Amphibians in Captivity, Current January 1, 1988, compiled by Frank L. Slavens is available for \$32.50 hardbound or \$25.00 softbound + \$3.00 postage. This inventory lists 462 genera, 1357 species and several hundred subspecies. Information is compiled from 400 reptile and amphibian collections (148 public, 252 private), mostly in the United States.

Order from:

Frank L. Slavens
P.O. Box 30744
Seattle, WA 98103

Book-Em, Dan-O

A listing of 3,306 titles in herpetology (as well as several thousand more in other areas of natural history) is available free of charge, upon request, from:

Herpetological Search Service & Exchange
117 East Santa Barbara Road
Lindenhurst, New York 11757

New Reptile & Amphibian Magazine

Reptile and Amphibian Magazine, distributed through retail outlets a \$2.95 per issue, with subscriptions available in the U.S. for \$12.00 per year (6 issues) or \$22.00 for two years. Remit payment to: Subscription Department, RD 3, Box 3709, Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901.

—AAZPA Newsletter 30(10), September 1989
(Submitted by Ruth Gennrich, Lawrence)

Breeder's Exposition

The central Florida Herpetological Society's 1st National Reptile Breeders' Exposition will be held 3-5 August 1990 in Orlando, Florida at the Howard Johnson Florida Center Hotel. Further details will be released in January 1990.

For more information, call or write:

Central Florida Herpetological Society
P.O. Box 3277
Winter Haven Florida 33881
813-294-2235 (Wayne Hill)



Video Shell-Out

A comprehensive guide designed for use by the turtle or tortoise fancier presented in non-technical, everyday language is now available on a 90 minute video tape.

Included in this video are techniques used to humanely force feed your turtles and tortoises when they are ill, plus rare and remarkable footage of a box turtle laying her eggs.

The video features Felice Rood, President of the Sacramento Turtle and Tortoise Club, who discusses hatchlings, habitats, hibernation, foods, incubation of eggs, greenhouses, illness, dangers and more.

Available for \$29.95 + \$3.50 (Make checks payable to S.T.V.S.) shipping from:

Sorcerer's Touch Video Services
3321 Schooner Drive
Stockton, California 95209

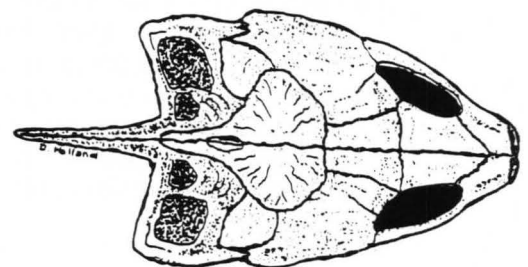
New Regulations for Kansas Reptiles and Amphibians are Being Decided Now!

In the very near future, many important decisions that affect Kansas reptiles and amphibians will be made by the Commissioners of the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks. Under consideration are regulations increasing protection of amphibians and reptiles from indiscriminate killing and destruction by ignorant people, whether or not to permit commercial exploitation of these animals, how to regulate amphibians and reptiles in the pet trade, and many other proposals of significance to KHS members.

The vast majority of Kansas Wildlife & Parks Commission meetings are difficult to attend, because they are often held in distant places (*i.e.* anywhere in the western half of the state; few of our 350 KHS members live west of a line from Pratt to Salina), and apparently none of those meetings are devoted exclusively to true wildlife (which represent about 80% of the vertebrate species in Kansas, as opposed to game wildlife which consist of the 20% that can be fished or hunted). Most true wildlife users will not attend meetings where they must sit through endless commentary on game species.

So KHS members are encouraged to call or write and express their opinions on the need to more thoroughly and strongly protect Kansas reptiles and amphibians — in other words, the modern and enlightened approach to protection used by the other states in our nation. Contact the Kansas Director of Wildlife Operations, **W. Alan Wentz**, and/or any of the Kansas Wildlife & Parks Commissioners. All are listed below. Call now, or you will have no grounds for complaints if regulations not to your liking are promulgated.

W. Alan Wentz
Wildlife Operations
Box 54-A, R. R. # 2
Pratt, Kansas 67124
316-672-5911



Commissioners

Anderson, Edward B......(Home) 316-697-4396
159 Hilltop, Box 1071, Elkhart, Kansas 67950.....(Office) 316-697-4311

Anderson, William A., Jr., (Vice-Chairperson).....(Home) 913-362-3648
5733 Reinhardt Drive, Fairway, Kansas 66205.....(Office) 816-822-1888

Browning, Dr. William R......(Home) 316-437-2800
Route 1, Box 645, Madison, Kansas 66860 (Office) 316-437-2200

Ensley, Theodore D......(Home) 913-266-8030
3139 SE 29th, Topeka, Kansas 66605..... (Office) 913-267-2000

George, Kathy Brown(Home) 913-238-7652
Route 3, Box 36-A, Spring Valley Road
Junction City, Kansas 66441

Hopkins, Ronald (Chairperson).....(Home) 316-943-2973
255 North Water..... (Office) 316-265-4451
Wichita, Kansas 67202..... (Office) 316-682-0491

Tomanek, Dr. Gerald W......(Home) 913-625-9390
1503 Oakmont, Hays, Kansas 67601

Call For a Shrimp Boycott

Shrimp trawlers again blocked implementation of the act requiring TEDs (Turtle Excluder Devices) on trawlers in U.S. waters this summer. The trawlers lobbying in Washington D. C: postponed the requirement due to be enacted by May 1, 1989 until next year.

Shrimp trawlers alone are responsible for thousands of sea turtle deaths each year, including the critically endangered Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle. The simple and relatively inexpensive (\$700 per TED) Turtle Excluder Device does not seriously hinder trawling and is essentially a species-saving device. If it is not required on trawlers operating in the Gulf of Mexico, we can expect the Kemp's Ridley to become extinct before the end of this century. It's that simple.

Since the trawlers have refused to cooperate with efforts to save this species and since the killing, intentionally or accidentally, of any endangered species is a direct and flagrant violation of the Federal Endangered Species Act, I am asking fellow KHS members in joining me in a boycott of all shrimp products until such a time as shrimpers comply with the TED requirements. The trawlers think only in terms of dollars and cents. So I say let's hurt them right in their dollars and cents. I relish shrimp above nearly any other food but I believe it is our responsibility to preserve and protect sea turtles and other wildlife. Your refusal to buy shrimp shows your concern for these critically endangered reptiles and your respect for the environment. By informing others of this situation, including restaurant and supermarket owners, additional pressure can be brought to bear upon those responsible for the wanton waste and destruction of this unique species.

Also, I urge you to write our Senators and Congressmen, as I have already done, asking them to act now to require TEDs on all shrimp trawlers operating in U.S. waters. Time is running out for an ancient, irreplaceable natural treasure. Please help. Thank you.

—Marty Capron
Oxford, Kansas

Editor's Note: When President Bush's Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher illegally suspended the requirement for use of the TEDs on 24 July 1989, the National Audubon Society also joined in the call for a boycott of shrimp. According to the September/October issue of the *Audubon Activist*, the principal known cause of death for juvenile and breeding-age sea turtles is drowning in shrimp nets. The American shrimp fleet alone accounts for more than 11,000 sea turtle deaths each year, including 800 Kemp's Ridelys. According to the National Marine

Fisheries Service and other scientists, only 500-600 nesting adult female Kemp's Ridleys remain.

After 10,000 hours of testing, it has been demonstrated that TEDs only reduce the shrimp catch by less than 5%, not the 40% claimed by the shrimpers (most of who were not using the TEDs properly, anyway).

TEDs are reasonable. Sea turtles must be saved. I urge you to give serious consideration to Marty Capron's request for the shrimp boycott and especially, write those letters!!



KHS BUSINESS



KHS Annual Meeting in Wichita Filled Auditorium and Treasury

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society, held in Wichita at the Sedgwick County Zoo on 11-12 November 1989 under the auspices of KHS President Jim Marlett and his fine herpetarium staff, was well attended and well-heeled. Over 75 KHS members and non-members registered for the two-day conference, which saw a wide variety of talks (husbandry, travelogues, natural history, and a panel discussion) presented in the spacious auditorium of the zoo Education Building. At the KHS Business meeting, Larry Zuckerman was chosen as KHS President-elect for 1990, and Olin Karch was unanimously re-elected KHS Secretary-Treasurer. The annual auction, held on Saturday evening in close proximity to free refreshments, saw over \$780.00 raised by Joe Collins for the KHS treasury, bringing a beatific smile to KHS treasurer Olin Karch, who eagerly accepted all manner of funds, coins, and trinkets from assembled participants. The auction total was the second highest in KHS history, surpassed only by the \$824.00 raised in Lawrence in 1986.

At the close of the meeting on Sunday, President Marlett introduced 1990 KHS President Nancy Schwarting (KU Animal Care Unit, Lawrence), and simulated the passing of the KHS gavel (which he cannot find). It was a wonderful meeting, and Jim and the SCZ staff deserve our thanks for a memorable weekend (made more memorable by Olin's VideoCam). Next year's annual meeting will be in Lawrence. Also don't forget next year's KHS annual spring field trip to Hodgeman County — Larry Miller is hard at work organizing the excursion.

Collins Third Recipient of KHS Bronze Salamander Award

Joseph T. Collins, KHS Associate Editor, was presented with the KHS Bronze Salamander Award on Saturday, 11 November 1989, on the occasion of the 16th Annual Meeting of the Society in Wichita. The award, consisting of the bronze cast of a Tiger Salamander mounted on a wooden base with a descriptive plaque, is the only distinguished service honor bestowed by the KHS, and is given to those individuals who have served the Society over many years in a variety of ways. Collins served as the first KHS editor in 1974, and as KHS president in 1983. The cast and woodwork for The Bronze Salamander Award are the excellent craftsmanship of Errol D. Hooper, Jr., KU Museum of Natural History, and the foundry work was done by Nesch Brass, Fort Collins, Colorado.

The Bronze Salamander Award is not presented annually, but is given whenever a deserving recipient is identified. A committee, consisting of the last three recipients of the Award, will recommend future nominees to the KHS Executive Council. Previous recipients were John E. Simmons (1987) and Larry Miller (1988).



WHAT'S GNU IN THE ZOO

The following articles are from the *AAZPA Newsletter* 30(8), August 1989 (Submitted by Ruth Gennrich, Lawrence).

Bog Turtle Alert

The recent availability of bog turtles (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*) has been noted on a number of reptile price lists. This is disturbing as it coincides with reports of collecting activities in North Carolina and perhaps other southern states in recent months. Although the turtles may or may not have been illegally taken at the time, subsequent reports have confirmed that a number of these turtles were taken from sites where long-term ecological studies on the species were being conducted, and some of the animals taken were marked study specimens.

Some known turtle populations in Virginia, most in North Carolina, and all those in Tennessee contain marked individuals. Identification marks on those in North Carolina and Tennessee are made with a triangular file and appear as a small, V-shaped notch in one or two marginal scutes. These markings are permanent and differ on each specimen from within the same population area.

If you have received or have access to bog turtles thought to have been recently collected, closely examine them for such ID markings. If these are present, please contact us. With accurate accounts of sex, size and mark, it is possible that individual identity, as well as collecting locality, can be determined. Contact Bern Tryon, Herpetology Department, Knoxville Zoological Gardens, P.O. Box 6040, Knoxville, Tennessee 37914 (615) 523-4023 or Dennis Herman, Herpetology Department, Zoo Atlanta, 800 Cherokee Avenue, SE, Atlanta, Georgia 30315 (404) 624-5618.

Woodland Park Zoo Reports Hatching of Solomon Island Leaf Frogs

Solomon Island leaf frogs (*Ceratobatrachus guentheri*) were recently hatched at Woodland Park Zoological Gardens, Seattle, Washington. In what is believed to be the first breeding in captivity for the monotypic genus *Ceratobatrachus*, it was discovered that the eggs are buried and covered by the female, a newly discovered mode of reproduction for frogs. In similar modes of reproduction in frogs, the eggs are laid in leaf litter or hidden in a damp crevice. It was also confirmed that the eggs from this species go through direct development. Eggs are laid and hatch directly into tiny (10mm) frogs, passing the tadpole stage in the egg. To date, 100 frogs have hatched from the first four of seven clutches of eggs laid.

Green Sea Turtles Hatch at Sea Life Park

Sea Life Park, Waimanalo, Hawaii, reported its first set of hatchling green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) for 1989. On 4 July, 54 hatchlings emerged from their artificial beach. This is the fourth consecutive year of successful hatchings, with 1070 turtles released to the wild since 1976.

Record Hatching of Galapagos Tortoises Reported

Life Fellowship Bird Sanctuary, Seffner, Florida reported the hatching of 61 Galapagos tortoises (*Geochelone elephantopus*) thus far this year, with additional fertile eggs due to hatch this summer. A total of 99 specimens have hatched at the sanctuary in the last three years.

From the *AAZPA Newsletter* 30(9), September 1989 (Submitted by Ruth Gennrich, Lawrence).

Aruba Island Rattlesnakes Arrive at Houston

The Houston Zoological Garden imported 5/5 Aruba Island rattlesnakes on 27 July. These animals were a donation from the Aruba Island government and will be used as breeding stock for the Species Survival Program. The imported snakes were selected from a group of specimens that were captured in residential areas and brought to the Aruba Department of Agriculture. Before this importation, only six founders were represented in the captive population. The addition of these specimens will substantially increase the overall genetic diversity represented in the Species Survival Plan population. The snakes will be distributed to zoos throughout the United States.

Significant Hatching at San Antonio Zoo

Two Leaf-tailed Day Geckos (*Phelsuma serratocauda*) recently hatched at the zoo. It is believed that this may be a first captive breeding of the species. The zoo established a breeding group of three pairs in 1988. A clutch of two fertile eggs was laid on 5 June 1989 and hatched after 48 days of incubation.

From the *AAZPA Newsletter* 30(10), October 1989 (Submitted by Ruth Gennrich, Lawrence).

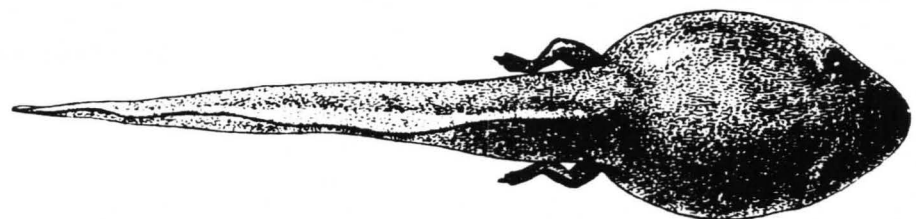
Significant Hatchings Occur at the Gladys Porter Zoo

The first Philippine Crocodiles (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) reproduced outside the Philippine Islands were hatched at the Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville, Texas, on 5 September. Thirteen eggs were laid 73 days prior to the hatching and, of those, 7 hatched. The Zoo has had two male Philippine Crocodiles since 1973 and obtained two females on 1 October 1988. It is hoped that offspring can be provided to Stillman University, Philippines to expand the gene pool of its experimental breeding colony.

Geckos Hatch at Reptile Breeding Foundation

On 29 June, after a 107-day incubation period, the Reptile Breeding Foundation (Picton, Ontario, Canada), successfully reproduced a Smith's Green-eyed Gecko (*Gekko smithii*). A second egg hatched on 2 July. The eggs were found on 14 March attached to the glass on the inside of a 114-liter terrarium that houses an adult pair. Found in Malaya, Burma, Thailand, Sumatra, Borneo and Java, almost nothing is known about *G. smithii* in the wild except that it is an arboreal rain forest species apparently keeping to the tops of tall trees. We believe this to be a first hatching in North America.

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KHS BRINGS INQUIRING MINDS WHAT THEY WANT TO KNOW

Proposed Kansas Reservoir will Impact Amphibians and Reptiles

A dependable public water supply is a valuable commodity in southeast Kansas where groundwater quantity and quality are on the decline. The Southeast Kansas Alternative Water Supply Steering Committee, representing seven small communities in Crawford and Cherokee counties, is proposing to form a wholesale water supply district and to construct a 510-acre reservoir designed to yield 2.15 million gallons of treated water per day. The proposed reservoir site is in the upper reaches of Bone Creek, a tributary to West Fork Dry Wood Creek which is in the Marais des Cygnes River basin.

The local sponsors have contacted the Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks concerning the effects on wildlife. Since the sponsors are seeking both state and federal funding, an assessment of environmental impacts was required. A field assessment by Wildlife and Parks personnel found the proposed site contains some of the highest quality woodland wildlife habitat to be found in either Crawford or Cherokee county. Even more significant, the site is within an area of designated critical habitat for the Broadhead Skink, a state-listed threatened species. The site is also within the probable range of and contains habitats suitable for the conservation of three additional threatened species: the Central Newt, Eastern Spotted Skunk, and Northern Redbelly Snake.

The project sponsors are currently working with the Department's Environmental Services Section to ensure that measures can and will be taken to offset habitat losses.

—Kansas Wildlife Federation August 1989

Venerable Rattler Dies — Kansas Snake Held Unofficial Record for Longevity

Hillsboro, Kansas — A prairie rattlesnake appropriately named Methuselah is dead.

Methuselah, given its name by students at Tabor College in Hillsboro, where it had lived in a cage since 1960, was found dead Saturday.

Max Terman, a biology professor at the college in east-central Kansas, said the reptile was 31 or 32 years old — thought to be a record for prairie rattlesnakes in captivity. The previous record-setter was a 19-year-old prairie rattler at the San Diego Zoo.

"There really is no official record. The only thing you have access to is records from zoos, laboratories and thing like that," Terman said.

Methuselah's life probably was lengthened considerably by its capture near the southwest Kansas town of Lakin in 1960 by a Tabor student.

"I would say a prairie rattlesnake would live in the wild 10 to 15 years because of all the survival-of-the-fittest factors," Terman said.

Methuselah is being preserved in a freezer until a taxidermist can be found "to put him into a lifelike pose," Terman said. The snake then will be kept in a display case at the college.

Meanwhile, Tabor College has a Western diamondback rattlesnake — a species much larger than the prairie rattlesnake — that might set another longevity record, Terman said. The diamondback is about 17 years old — just two years short of the record for a captive snake of that species.

— Kansas City Star, 28 May 1989
(Submitted by Suzanne Collins, Lawrence)

Assistant Curator Indicted

Joseph P. Russoniello, United States Attorney for the Northern District of California today announced that John Jeffrey Boundy, Assistant Curator for the Museum of Herpetology, San Jose State University, was indicted August 17, 1989 by a Federal Grand Jury in San Jose for collecting rare, protected and endangered reptiles across the United States and in Mexico.

Russoniello said the investigation began on May 3, 1989, when Special Agents of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service seized approximately 50 protected reptiles and amphibians from the University when they executed a federal search warrant. Later seizures of reptiles and amphibians from the University by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service brought the number of protected reptiles to 316.

By the indictment, Boundy, 30, of San Jose, is charged with illegally collecting and/or receiving 64 protected and regulated species of wildlife between 1985 and 1988.

That wildlife, collected in the states of Texas, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and Oregon, was collected without permits and was put into the university collection by Boundy. (Other protected species found by the government at the university, and collected by others, included 80 reptiles and amphibians from Mexico and Australia.)

The indictment further alleges that in October 1988 Boundy and William Frank Meyers, 33, of Arizona, went to Mexico and collected two New Mexican Ridged-nosed rattlesnake. Russoniello said the New Mexican Ridged-nosed rattlesnake is protected under the Endangered Species Act. The New Mexican Ridged-nosed rattlesnake is known to exist only in a two-by-fifteen mile area of the San Luis Mountains, Mexico, and in an extremely small part of the Animas Mountains in New Mexico. By a separate criminal action, Meyers was charged with conspiracy to import the snakes into the United States. Meyers entered a plea of guilty Wednesday, August 16, 1989 in San Jose federal court before U. S. Magistrate Patricia V. Trumbull; he faces one year in prison and/or \$100,000 in fines. Meyers turned over to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service one of the two snakes on Sunday, August 13, 1989 at Tombstone, Arizona; the other snake is believed to be dead.

Russoniello said that federal agents have also seized from the bird museum at San Jose State University in excess of 100 birds protected by state, federal or foreign law. That portion of the investigation is continuing.

Russoniello also said that on August 10, 1989, William Andrew Ford, 29, of Campbell, California pleaded guilty to conspiracy with Boundy to violate U.S. wildlife protection laws. According to the charging papers in Ford's case, John Jeffrey Boundy was convicted in 1981 of fish and game violations in California, and also paid a civil fine to the United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

If convicted, Boundy faces 19 years in federal prison and \$1,300,000 in fines.

—U.S. Department of Justice Northern District of California
Press Release, 17 August 1989

Turtle Skull Drudgery

The chief neurosurgeon of Cyprus' main hospital was summoned urgently to operate on the broken skull of a three-foot sea turtle, the Cyprus Mail reported yesterday.

The English-language daily newspaper said the female turtle was found floating in the water off the east coast with its skull broken, apparently hit by a boat's propeller.

The injured turtle was taken to the government fisheries department. Its director, Andreas Demetropoulos, said he took it to the Nicosia General Hospital "for specialized brain surgery since she had been bashed on the head."

Nicos Spanos, the neurosurgeon, said he operated for 45 minutes on the turtle.

"It was not a difficult operation, but it was undeniably an interesting one," Spanos said.

The turtle was recuperating at a fisheries department turtle hatchery near Páphos on the west coast of the east Mediterranean island.

—University Daily Kansan, 29 September 1989
(Submitted by Irving Street, Lawrence)

Turtle Egg Thief to Serve Two Years

In a ruling hailed by wildlife advocates, a Riviera Beach, Fla., man charged with turtle-egg poaching received the stiffest sentence ever handed out for a violation of the Federal Endangered Species Act.

James E. Bivens, 37, was sentenced last week to two years in prison and three years probation after he pleaded guilty in June to stealing 818 eggs from the nests of endangered or threatened turtles on Jupiter Island in August 1988.

U.S. District Judge James C. Paine handed out the tough sentence after hearing testimony that Bivens pleaded guilty and received a \$108,800 fine and a 60-day jail term on state charges of poaching 1,088 turtle eggs on Singer Island in July 1988.

Bivens also was convicted on state charges of possession of turtle eggs in 1973 and has a lengthy criminal record including convictions for armed robbery and grand theft.

Pickled sea turtle eggs sell for \$250 apiece as aphrodisiacs in Vietnamese markets from New York to Kansas City to San Francisco, said Terry Grosz, special agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sea Turtle shells, carved into trinkets, bring up to \$600 a pound, casting doubt on the future of some of the planet's most ancient and threatened creatures.

"It's about time people understand that it's a crime to take endangered and threatened species," said John M. Fitzgerald, director of policy for Defenders of Wildlife.

The case should make Floridians sensitive to the need to protect marine turtles from bright beach lighting and pollution, Fitzgerald said.

"This case will send the message that, to bring (turtles) back from the brink of extinction, we have to take these kinds of measures," said Larry V. Thompson, a regional vice-president for the National Audubon Society in Tallahassee, Fla.

U.S. Attorney Dexter Lehtinen said Paine's ruling was believed to be the "most lengthy prison sentence imposed under the Endangered Species Act" and said his office will continue to "take very seriously the poaching of turtle eggs."

The longest previous sentence under the act was 18 months, said Robert B. Prather, senior resident agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Tallahassee.

—Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 20 August 1989
(Submitted by Jack Shumard, Wichita)

Hellbenders Have Friends in Capital

First of all, they're ugly creatures.

Called Hellbenders, these strange-looking amphibians that reside in Ozark streams could only be loved by their mothers.

They also suffer from the lack of a public image. In contrast to the famous wild turkeys of Missouri, Hellbenders never get a headline. You don't hunt them, eat them or see them every day. So it's a good bet not many people care about them.

Yet Hellbenders soon will win a measure of special respect from state government.

The Missouri Conservation Department has proposed a change in state administrative regulations to give the anonymous Hellbender new protection.

The trouble is that some animal hobbyists, particularly in Europe, like to collect Hellbenders.

The salamander-type creatures, which live in central and southern Missouri and may grow as long as 20 inches, aren't being wiped out and aren't considered endangered. However, as humans encroach on their habitat and grab them for hobby purposes, the Hellbenders need a hand from government.

That's exactly what the Conservation Department wants to give. Under current law, a person can legally capture up to five specimens of many types of wildlife. In other words, three men in a boat could possess 15 live Hellbenders without breaking the law. Later they could try to sell them.

The change in state regulations, to take effect Jan. 1, would forbid the capture of any Hellbenders. Bats, another Missouri animal with distinct needs, already enjoy protection under the same regulations.

Outdoor experts, like Charles Callison, Jefferson City lobbyist for the Missouri Audubon Council, applauded the Conservation Department's move.

"The department needs some encouragement to pay more attention to non-game species," he said.

Ed Stegner, executive director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, said Hellbenders have a purpose in the environment like every other animal.

Nevertheless, Stegner warned that Hellbenders, with their flat heads and folds in the skin, will never win a beauty contest.

"No one could love it but its mother," he said.

Actually the Hellbender has a big fan in Tom R. Johnson, who has written about the animal in his role as herpetologist for the Conservation Department.

Hellbenders are sometimes collected in Missouri, either legally or in numbers that exceed current limits, and will sell in Europe for \$150 to \$300 each, Johnson said.

"There are people who like odd things," he explained.

Johnson said that Hellbenders are not widespread outside of Missouri.

"I find them fascinating," said Johnson, who has studied the animal. "I look at them as being extremely beautiful."

—Kansas City Times, 9 October 1989
(Submitted by Errol Hooper, Jr., Ottawa)

Snake Murder Plot Brings Conviction

Jurors deliberated only nine minutes before convicting a man of plotting to kill his mother with a rattlesnake.

Reginald Wayne Pope, 37, could be sentenced to life in prison for his conviction on a charge of criminal solicitation.

Prosecutor Wade Drinkard called Pope "one sick individual."

Prosecutors said Pope met snake handler Keith Davis by chance at a restaurant. Davis testified Pope asked him about the possibility of using a timber rattler to kill his adoptive mother, Kathleen Etheridge.

Davis contacted police, and he wore a concealed microphone to record later meetings with Pope, who offered him \$300, with the promise of more later, to release a snake at his mother's house.

Pope was arrested in October.

—Topeka Capital-Journal, 9 September 1989
(Submitted by Suzanne L. Collins, Lawrence)

How to Burglar-proof Your Car

A 5-foot-long rattlesnake that wraps itself around the steering wheel of Josafa Bispo de Lima's car in São Paulo, Brazil, is a deterrent to would-be car thieves. Lima claims that since he started leaving the snake inside, no one has tried to steal his radio or his television set from the car.

—Wichita Eagle-beacon, 21 September 1989
(Submitted by Elizabeth James, Kechi)

Twenty-foot, 250-pound Python Captured — Under Florida Family's Home!

David Spalding heard a strange squealing noise in his backyard late one night, so he walked outside to investigate — and his eyes bugged out in disbelief when he saw a 20-foot-long, 250-pound python wrapped around a raccoon!

The slithering monster was so large it could swallow a small child whole or even coil around a grown man and squeeze him to death, say experts.

Unknown to Spalding, the gigantic Asian snake had been living beneath his house — possibly for as long as 15 years — and dining on animals in a park adjoining the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., home.

And the next six weeks were a nightmare as Spalding and his wife tried desperately to get rid of their uninvited — and definitely unwelcome — visitor.

"Seeing the python was a real shock!" said David, 70, who first spotted it the night of June 28.

"The snake was the biggest I'd ever laid eyes on — a monster that had been gobbling up unsuspecting 30-pound wild raccoons, and Lord knows what else, like they were marshmallows!

"My wife and I realized how serious this was because there were children next door. We knew something had to be done fast to avert a horrible tragedy."

David rushed to a phone and dialed 911. Cops referred him to a snake museum, a biologist and a snake expert.

"People came out the next day, but the snake wasn't in sight," said David, whose backyard borders the Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. "We were told to call them immediately when we saw it again — but every time we saw that monster it slithered away under the house or into the park."

The Spaldings warned others in their upper-class neighborhood about the snake. Nervous residents began keeping a wary eye on their children and pets.

Park ranger Bob Moxley went to the home to try to capture the snake, but changed his mind when he realized how big it was.

"I wasn't about to crawl under the house when I saw the size of the snake holes — they were 14 to 15 inches in diameter!" he said.

Finally, desperate David phoned Todd Hardwick, the owner of Pesky Critters Relocation in Miami, which specializes in capturing exotic animals.

On August 17, Hardwick and three employees widened a snake tunnel at the front of the home. Then the three workers tunneled beneath the house from the back, carrying garbage can lids to shield themselves from the python's sharp teeth.

They found the snake beneath the dining room and prodded it toward the front of the house, where Hardwick was waiting — hanging upside down in the widened tunnel, with two men holding his ankles.

"When the python got close, I put a noose around its neck and was pulled out by my ankles," Hardwick said. "He hissed all the way out, wriggling and writhing."

Hardwick and his men wrestled the python into a sleeping bag, tied the top and toted it off. Hardwick plans to sell it to a zoo.

Said ranger Moxley: "We think the python was a pet that got too big for the owners to handle, so they released it in the park.

"Then he just grew and grew. We think he could've been living in the park and under the house for as long as 15 years.

"I'll tell you this, the animals will be resting easier from here on in. I think the raccoons are going to have a party tonight!"

—National Enquirer, 5 September, 1989
(Submitted by Tracey Scwertfeger, Caldwell, Kansas)

101 Ways to Kill a Cane Toad

Brisbane is facing a devastating plague. Crime? Crack? Corruption? No: Toads. The huge, ugly, prolific and poisonous *Bufo marinus* — cane toad (*Editors Note:* This amphibian is called the Giant Toad in the United States) — has Australia's third largest city under siege. Female cane toads produce as many as 40,000 eggs at once, and the amphibians have glands that secrete bufotenine, a toxic substance that can kill dogs, cats—some say even human babies. Next month thousands of Brisbanites will be enlisted for an "eradication night" to try to rid the city of the invaders.

The problem began in 1932, when scientists recommended using cane toads to control beetle infestations on sugar crops. Australia imported about 100 of them from Latin America. Next thing they knew, the toads were all over Queensland and northern New South Wales. "It was a monstrous blunder," says Mark Lewis, producer of a humorous documentary on toads that has a cult following in Australia and Britain. (Bufotenine is reputed to have hallucinogenic properties, forcing authorities to declare "imbibing in toads" a crime punishable by life in prison.)

Brisbane is planning the eradication campaign carefully. To coach citizens in toadicide, a four-page, full-color brochure titled "101 Ways to Kill a Cane Toad" is being rushed into print. The method of choice, says Greg Stegman, a city alderman and organizer of the Cane Toad Eradication Campaign, is to zap them with Dettol, a disinfectant. But the most humane was is to pop them into the freezer. "The cane toads think it's an early winter, go to sleep and never wake up," says Stegman. Less recommended is the frequently used method of smashing the amphibians with golf clubs. That's pretty cruel, Stegman says. "Besides," he adds, "Queenslanders are among the worst golfers in the world."

—The London Times 25 Sept. 1989
(Submitted by Suzanne & Joseph Collins "on the Pilgrim's Way, Canterbury, Kent England")

—The Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 13 September 1989
(Submitted by Jack Shumard, Wichita)

Slithery Sales Pitch Causes Outrage

London, England — Hundreds of video rental shops on Friday received promotional kits for a horror movie with live snakes inside the packages, and outraged animal protection officials called this stunt "cruel and irresponsible."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals called on Cinema International Corp. to take back the 700 reptiles.

The snakes were in danger because instructions accompanying the kits had incorrectly said they did not need to be fed for their planned month-long stay in the stores, the society said.

It said it was receiving dozens of calls from unhappy shop owners.

Paul Brett, CIC's marketing manager, said the snakes were intended to be kept in shops to promote a thriller about voodoo called "The Serpent and The Rainbow."

The snakes were bred domestically and the company began sending them out Thursday from its London headquarters, he said.

The snakes, silver with gray stripes, are not poisonous but might carry harmful parasites if they came from abroad, said RSPCA spokeswoman Diana Jones. They needed to be fed weekly, she said.

While admitting there'd been "some confusion," Cinema International denied the snakes would harm anyone or be harmed.

"We've sent out 700 in clear, plastic, aerated boxes as conversation pieces," Brett said. "Snakes make wonderful pets."

The 18- to 24-inch snakes used in the promotion came from a company called Animal Actors, which assured Cinema International they did not have to be fed for three months, he said.

Lawrence Cane, Cinema International's marketing assistant, said: "Whenever we launch a new video title we normally send to our distributors posters, sleeves and cardboard cut-outs. With this film, we decided to send snakes. In marketing terms it's called live points of sale."

Some recipients weren't impressed.

"We felt complete and utter horror," said a London video shop manager, who refused to be identified to protect his relations with the distribution company. "I deplore any living creature used for advertising."

He said the snake, which "just appeared out of the blue," had been returned to the distribution company's animal supplier.

Brett said the snakes were hand-delivered in boxes marked "Live Animal," and claimed shop owners were warned by ads in the trade press and calls from sales agents.

—The Hutchinson News, 28 August 1989
(Submitted by Kathy Friend, Caldwell, Kansas)

First-grader Rescues Turtles

Paris, Texas (AP) — Janae McKinney collects turtles, lots of turtles. She also collects bugs, tadpoles, frogs and other animals she feels may be endangered by their surroundings.

McKinney is not an ecologist. She is simply concerned about animals that could fall prey to automobiles, polluted water and other ecological mishaps that occur in today's society.

The 7-year-old, a first-grader this past school year at Aikin Elementary School in Paris, seems wise for her years. She knows the meaning of ecology and understands the need to sometimes help defenseless animals survive in less-than-friendly surroundings.

"I didn't like the fact that these animals, especially turtles, were getting run over on the highway," she said. "So one day I asked mother if she would stop so I could pick up a turtle off the road. I guess that is when it all started."

Janae's mother, Jan Semple McKinney, couldn't turn down her daughter's request to save a turtle from being crushed on a busy road just outside Paris.

"I could tell she was very concerned, so I told her we would make it a project," Mrs. McKinney said. "I think she is being very responsible and has saved a lot of turtles from an early death on the highways."

Janae periodically patrols her neighborhood and a nearby creek for small creatures. If the creek is accidentally polluted, she collects the minnows and tadpoles from the water and takes them home to her portable fish tank.

She has encouraged her mother to take her riding on the roads just outside the city each morning before school to check for healthy, or injured, turtles on the highway. That duty requires a 6 a.m. wake-up call.

If one is spotted, they stop their car, pick it up and bring it home to add to an already large collection of terrapins, Red-eared Sliders and Gopher Tortoises, just to name a few. "These are native to the area," Janae said as she picked up a terrapin. "They are very sweet and make good pets."

Then she pointed to a Red-eared Slider, describing it as "mean." She said they will bite without much encouragement.

— Blackwell Oklahoman 9 June 1989
(Submitted by Maurice Cunningham, Caldwell Kansas)

The Lefthand Corner

Move over, watch dogs. Step aside, security guards. Attack snake does the job.

Gale Gunter-Schultz said she had thought about posting a sign in her yard warning prowlers that guarding her premises in Augusta, Ga., was an "attack snake" — her 10 1/2-foot Burmese python named Balthazar.

She didn't, though, catching a burglar unawares.

Mrs. Gunter-Schultz said her husband arrived home from a weekend trip to find the window pried open to the bathroom — where the hungry python sleeps.

—Pratt Tribune, 19 July 1989
(Submitted by Larry Zuckerman, Pratt)



FEATURE ARTICLES

NEW RECORDS OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN KANSAS FOR 1989

By

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The new county or maximum size records listed below are those accumulated or brought to my attention since the publication of records for 1988 (Collins, 1989). Publication of these new records permits me to give credit and express my appreciation to the many individuals who collected or obtained specimens and donated them to me for deposition in an institutional collection. Further, recipients of this list are permitted an opportunity to update the range maps and size maxima sections in *Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas* (Collins, 1982). Finally, these new records represent information that greatly increases our knowledge of the distribution and physical proportions of these creatures in Kansas, and thus gives us a better understanding of their biology. This report is my fifteenth in a series that has appeared annually since 1976, and the data contained herein will be incorporated into the upcoming third (revised) edition of my book, currently in preparation.

The Kansas specimens listed below represent the first records for the given county based on a preserved, cataloged voucher specimen in an institutional collection, or represent size maxima larger than those listed in Collins (1982). Any information of this nature not backed by a voucher specimen is an unverifiable observation. All new records listed here are presented in the following standardized format: common and scientific name, county, specific locality, date of collection, collector(s), and place of deposition and catalog number. New size maxima are presented with the size limits expressed in both metric and English units. Common names are those now generally accepted and in use across North America, as proposed by Collins *et al.* (1982).

The records listed below are deposited in the herpetological collections of the Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, Lawrence (KU). I am most grateful to the members of the Kansas Herpetological Society (particularly to Travis Taggart), and to personnel of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission, who spent many hours in search of some of the specimens reported herein. John E. Simmons, Collection Manager for the Division of Herpetology, Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, diligently assigned catalog numbers to the specimens listed above, and to him I am indebted. Special thanks are due also to Philip S. Humphrey, Director, and William E. Duellman, Curator of Herpetology, of the Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas.

NEW COUNTY RECORDS

SMALLMOUTH SALAMANDER (*Ambystoma texanum*)

BOURBON CO: 1.3 km W Bourbon County State Lake. 14 August 1988. T. Taggart & B. Taggart (KU 211388). **NEOSHO CO:** ca. 8 km E & 1.1 km N Chanute. 17 March 1989. T. Taggart & B. Taggart (KU 211392).

TIGER SALAMANDER (*Ambystoma tigrinum*)

CHAUTAUQUA CO: 5.3 mi N & 0.6 mi W Cedar Vale. 25 June 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211571).

BLANCHARD'S CRICKET FROG (*Acris crepitans blanchardi*)

GRAHAM CO: ca. 24.1 km S & 17.7 km E Hill City. 4 September 1989. T. Taggart (KU 212557).

GRAY TREEFROG (*Hyla chrysoscelis-Hyla versicolor*)

BUTLER CO: 2 mi S & 0.4 mi W Douglas. 1 July 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211573).

BULLFROG (*Rana catesbeiana*)

MCPHERSON CO: McPherson State Lake, E of McPherson. 23 June 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211574). **ROOKS CO:** Rooks County State Lake, S of Stockton. 24 June 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211575).

SOUTHERN LEOPARD FROG (*Rana utricularia utricularia*)

BOURBON CO: Bourbon County State Lake. 19 March 1989. T. Taggart & B. Taggart (KU 211395). **COFFEY CO:** below Redmond Reservoir dam, ca. 8 km NNW Burlington. 26 May 1989. T. Taggart & B. Taggart (KU 211396). **ELK CO:** 0.2 mi S Grenola. 1 July 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211576).

PLAINS NARROWMOUTH TOAD (*Gastrophryne olivacea*)

ALLEN CO: 2.9 km W & 0.5 km S Humboldt. 27 May 1989. T. Taggart & B. Taggart (KU 211397). **CRAWFORD CO:** 2 mi E & 0.6 mi S Hepler. 4 July 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211578).

YELLOW MUD TURTLE (*Kinosternon flavescens flavescens*)

LABETTE CO: 2.1 km WNW Chetopa on U.S. Rt. 166. 4 June 1989. T. Taggart & B. Taggart (KU 211400). This specimen and previous vouchers taken in Cherokee County (adjacent to the east of Labette County) substantiate the presence of an isolated colony of this turtle in extreme southeastern Kansas and adjacent southwestern Missouri.

THREE-TOED BOX TURTLE (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*)

COWLEY CO: 5 mi S & 2.4 mi E Cambridge. 1 July 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211579).

SUMNER CO: 0.6 mi W Geuda Springs. 2 July 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211580).

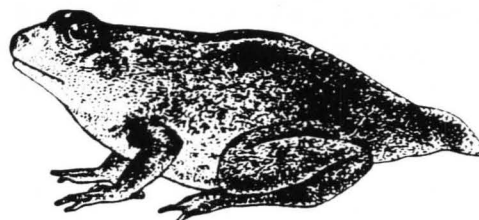
WYANDOTTE CO: Camp Naish, 3 mi E Bonner Springs. 1 June 1989. T. Sullivan & S. Roth (JTC Color Slide 239). This specimen is currently being exhibited alive at the Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas. It eventually will be deposited in the preserved collection at KU.

OUACHITA MAP TURTLE (*Graptemys pseudogeographica ouachitensis*)

MORRIS CO: Neosho River, Sec. 24, T17S, R9E. 3 June 1989. K. J. Irwin (KU 211376). This specimen is the most northwestern record from Kansas.

WESTERN PAINTED TURTLE (*Chrysemys picta bellii*)

ALLEN CO: Sec. 25, T25S, R17W. 3 June 1989. T. Taggart & B. Taggart (KU 211401). **CHAUTAUQUA CO:** 4.3 mi W Chautauqua. 2 July 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211581).



GROUND SKINK (*Scincella lateralis*)

ALLEN CO: within Humboldt city limits. 29 July 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211582).

SUMNER CO: 3.2 mi N Ashton. 2 July 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211582?).

GREAT PLAINS SKINK (*Eumeces obsoletus*)

HARPER CO: 2 mi E and 1 mi S Danville. 25 June 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211584).

PRAIRIE-LINED RACERUNNER (*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus viridis*)

COFFEY CO: SW end Redmond Reservoir dam, ca. 6.4 km NW Burlington. 26 May 1989.

T. Taggart & B. Taggart (KU 211404).

EASTERN HOGNOSE SNAKE (*Heterodon platirhinos*)

GRAHAM CO: ca. 23.2 km S & 16.3 km E Hill City. 3 September 1989. T. Taggart (KU 212558).

WESTERN WORM SNAKE (*Carphophis amoenus vermis*)

COFFEY CO: Hickory Creek Recreation Area, Redmond Reservoir, ca. 12.9 km NNW Burlington. 26 May 1989. T. Taggart & B. Taggart (KU 211406).

PRAIRIE RINGNECK SNAKE (*Diadophis punctatus arnyi*)

PRATT CO: S edge Sawyer city limits. 25 June 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211585).

FLATHEAD SNAKE (*Tantilla gracilis*)

ALLEN CO: within Humboldt city limits. 10 July 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211591).

EASTERN YELLOWBELLY RACER (*Coluber constrictor*)

SMITH CO: 4 mi S Claudell. 24 June 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211586).

BLACK RAT SNAKE (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*)

COFFEY CO: SW end Redmond Reservoir dam, ca. 6.4 km NW Burlington. 26 May 1989. T. Taggart & B. Taggart (KU 211407). **WASHINGTON CO:** Sec. 36, T3S, R4E. 9 June 1989. J. T. Collins & S. L. Collins (KU 211378).

BULLSNAKE (*Pituophis melanoleucus sayi*)

GRAHAM CO: 0.8 mi S Saline River bridge on U. S. Rt. 283. 24 June 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211590).

COMMON KINGSNAKE (*Lampropeltis getula*)

NEOSHO CO: 1 mi S Allen County line at Chanute Elks Lake entrance. 27 August 1989. T. Taggart & J. Woods (KU 211587). **GRAHAM CO:** ca. 20.8 km S & 9.6 km E Hill City. 3 September 1989. T. Taggart (KU 212559).

WESTERN RIBBON SNAKE (*Thamnophis proximus*)

ROOKS CO: Rooks County State Lake. 3 September 1989. T. Taggart (KU 212560).

LINED SNAKE (*Tropidoclonion lineatum*)

GRAHAM CO: ca. 24.1 km S & 17.7 km E Hill City. 4 September 1989. T. Taggart (KU 212562).

DIAMONDBACK WATER SNAKE (*Nerodia rhombifer*)

PRATT CO: S edge Sawyer city limits. 25 June 1989. T. Taggart (KU 211589).

COPPERHEAD (*Agkistrodon contortrix*)

ALLEN CO: 1.8 km SW Humboldt, SW corner of Monarch Cement Plant. 31 May 1989. T. Taggart & B. Taggart (KU 211409).

PRAIRIE RATTLESNAKE (*Crotalus viridis viridis*)

LINCOLN CO: 0.3 km S Sylvan Grove. 4 September 1989. T. Taggart (KU 212563).

NEW MAXIMUM SIZE RECORDS

AMERICAN TOAD (*Bufo americanus*)

NEOSHO CO: Santa Fe City Lake, S edge of Chanute. 14 September 1988. Travis Taggart & Bruce Taggart (KU 211394). Snout-vent length = 102 mm (4 inches). Sex undetermined. This specimen is from extreme southeastern Kansas, a region once thought to be inhabited by the poorly defined Dwarf American Toad (*Bufo americanus charlesmithi*). Large examples of American Toads (*B. a. americanus*) are common throughout southeastern Kansas, and the presence of the dwarf race in the state has yet to be documented.

Sanders (1987), in a privately issued manuscript, proposed some taxonomic changes for North American toads, and I take this opportunity to summarize and comment on his conclusions. He elevates *Bufo fowleri* to specific status, resurrects *Bufo americanus copei* and elevates it to specific status, creates the combination *Bufo fowleri fowleri* (but nowhere designates any other races of this species), resurrects *Bufo woodhousii velatus* and elevates it to specific status, and describes three new species, *Bufo antecessor*, *Bufo hobarti*, and *Bufo planiorum*. The paper by Sanders apparently lacked critical review, and the descriptions and definitions of all taxa included therein are so disorganized that significant comparison (statistical or otherwise) cannot be made. Because of this, I consider it unwise to follow any of the taxonomic changes proposed by Sanders (1987), and urge that (1) *Bufo fowleri* continue to be considered a race of *Bufo woodhousii*, (2) that both *Bufo copei* and *Bufo velatus* continue to be relegated to the synonymy of *Bufo americanus* and *Bufo woodhousii*, respectively, and (3) that *Bufo antecessor*, *Bufo hobarti*, and *Bufo planiorum* be relegated to the synonymy of *Bufo woodhousii*. This arrangement, while traditional, is currently recognized across North America and remains the best documented treatment for the genus. Future investigation of the status of North American bufonids is needed, but will require the use modern systematic techniques and data analysis.

THREE-TOED BOX TURTLE (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*)

WYANDOTTE CO: Camp Naish, 3 mi E Bonner Springs. 1 June 1989. Tom Sullivan & Stanley Roth (JTC Color Slide 239). Upper shell length = 179 mm (7 inches). Female. This specimen is currently being exhibited alive at the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas. It eventually will be deposited in the preserved collection at KU.

WESTERN PAINTED TURTLE (*Chrysemys picta bellii*)

BARTON CO: Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Sec. 22, T18S, R12W. 24 June 1989. William Knighton & Natalie Fayman (KU 211375). Upper shell length = 207 mm (8 1/8 inches). Sex undetermined.

BROADHEAD SKINK (*Eumeces laticeps*)

CRAWFORD CO: Crawford County State Lake, Sec. 5, T28S, R24E. 8 April 1987. Robert Friggeri (KU 211377). Snout-vent length = 110 mm (4 1/4 inches); total length = 263 mm (10 3/16 inches). Male.

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Corrections to Rattlesnake Roundups, KHS Newsletter #77

On page 15, paragraph 3, the quote in the last sentence should read:

"In general, the roundup samples do not suggest stressed populations; rather the snakes seem to be maintaining themselves satisfactorily with a harvestable surplus. However, the 1988 Waynoka sample stands out from the others as having a high proportion of second-year snakes and none that approach maximum size or age . . . perhaps an incipient stage of overhunting is indicated here."

On page 16, paragraph 1, the second to last sentence should read:

Specific traits that have made it possible for the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake to survive years of exploitation in each of the roundup areas are early maturity (typically at about three years), frequent reproduction (it seems to be annual in many females), large litters (about a dozen young), and dispersed populations with few at a den (in contrast to the huge and vulnerable denning aggregations of some populations of *Crotalus viridis* and *C. horridus*).

The editors apologize for this oversight.



REVIEWS

Reptile and Amphibian Magazine, distributed through retail outlets at \$2.95 per issue, with subscriptions available in the U.S. for \$12.00 per year (6 issues) or \$22.00 for two years. Remit payment to: Subscription Department, RD 3, Box 3709, Pottsville, PA 17901.

This is a digest-sized bimonthly magazine with color photos "for people who enjoy keeping and studying reptiles and amphibians." The press release for the magazine says that feature articles on popular species will be supplemented with sections on photography, book reviews, captive breeding, conservation articles, and both classified and display advertisements.

They almost lost me in their press release when they referred to "herptiles," which I have always thought is a rather stupid word.* However, the sample issue I was sent (Nov/Dec 1989) has 45 pages with lots of color, as promised. The articles include an incredibly anthropomorphic piece on the American toad, and a good, clear article for beginners on close-up photographic equipment. Next comes a superficial treatment of *The Boids*, with good photos. There is an article on *Parthenogenesis in Lizards—a General Discussion* by a veterinarian, which seems like a fairly good short review of the subject.

The *Directory of Herpetological Societies of the United States* I rather suspect was "borrowed" from *Herpetological Review* without giving credit to that publication—it mysteriously lists almost exactly the same groups (though arranged by state instead of alphabetically), including some now defunct organizations (such as the Kaw Valley Herpetological Society in Kansas) that were accidentally left on the *Herpetological Review* list. Amazing coincidence, I suppose.

This was followed by an article on *Antibiotic Treatment of Gram-Negative Infections in Reptiles*. At this point, I realized that one of the things that was bothering me about this magazine was that very few of the articles are signed. Personally, I like to know who wrote what I am reading.

The magazine finishes off with a review of a recording of frog calls, some herpetological tidbits from the press (for once, sources are credited), a signed article on *The Red Eft and the Red-Spotted Newt. . . One, but not the Same*, and a report on a turtle workshop from the recent Captive Propagation group meeting in Phoenix.

The masthead lists Norman Frank, D.V.M., as the editor and publisher. He is also the author of the article on parthenogenesis, and probably some or all of the other unsigned material as well. Four other writers are listed on the masthead, as well as the members of the editorial board.

Obviously, this issue was a mixed bag. The ads will be of interest to anyone who does captive breeding of reptiles. The production quality is good, and the color photos are nice. For the subscription price, this is probably a magazine worth watching.

—John E. Simmons
Museum of Natural History
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

"The word reptile comes from the Latin reptilis, "creeping." "Herp" is a slang term derived from the word herpetology, whose root is the Greek herpeton, which also means "creeping". Why a person would want to be so redundant as to join words with the same meaning from two distinct languages is beyond me. The use of the word "herp" to refer to a reptile or amphibian is a widely accepted slang term and okay to use in many contexts. But why use a word that derives from "creeping-creeping?"

Birds in Kansas, Volume 1. 1989. Max C. Thompson and Charles Ely. University of Kansas Museum of Natural History Public Education Series No. 11. xv + 404 pages, illustrated with 178 black and white photos and 222 maps. Price \$14.95 (paper), \$25.00 (hardbound). Available from: The University Press of Kansas, 329 Carruth, Lawrence, Kansas 66045.

When the first comprehensive book about birds in Kansas was published in 1883 and then revised in 1896, Colonel N. S. Goss included a total of 335 species. At that time, he predicted that eventually as many as 350 species of birds would be recorded in the state.

Now, one hundred years of birding later, there are 424 species of birds known from Kansas. This first volume of the new *Birds in Kansas* covers 222 species—all except the songbirds, which will be covered in the promised second volume.

This book is intended "for the enjoyment and use of both the amateur birdwatcher and the professional ornithologist," according to the authors' preface. The format follows that of the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History's other guides to the state's fauna. Each species account includes the common and scientific name of the birds, remarks on its status and period of occurrence in Kansas, some comments on habits and habitat, food, and breeding. For some species a section on field marks is included. Each account is accompanied by a map (with those infuriating one-dot-per county marks instead of a true range map) and most species are illustrated with a black-and-white photograph.

The photographs are the weakest part of this book. How well a bird book with only black-and-white photos will be received is questionable. With some of these photos, the book may be

in real trouble. There are some good photos in this volume, but unfortunately, there are more bad ones than good ones, and too many that are just plain awful. Granted, it is much more difficult to photograph birds than many other kinds of animals, and I doubt that the publisher had a very large budget to purchase really top quality bird photos, but some of them are still inexcusable.

The particularly bad photos are either way out of focus (for example, the King Eider, Red-breasted Merganser, Broad-winged Hawk, Purple Gallinule), merely silhouettes (such as the White Ibis, American Swallow-tailed Kite, Long-eared Owl, Pileated Woodpecker) or else the bird is practically indistinguishable from the background (as with the Red-throated Loon and the Brant). Some of the bird photographs that are lacking are a puzzle, too. How difficult can it be to find a picture of the widely-distributed Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, after all?

If what you want is a guide to identification, go buy a field guide (the "field marks" information provided in this book is only marginal useful). If you want more information a particular species than a field guide will provide, particularly information about that bird within Kansas, then this book will be of use. The information provided varies greatly from species to species. One feature that serious birders will like is the inclusion of information on species that have been reliably reported in the state, but are not known from a specimen or authenticated photograph. It will be very useful information to have if you think you have seen something new to Kansas.

The text also includes a short history of ornithology in Kansas, a bibliography, and is indexed by common and scientific names.

If you have more than a passing interest in the wildlife of the state, this is a book you should have in your library, but remember—you are buying it for the text, not the illustrations.

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Systematics and Natural History of the American Milk Snake, Lampropeltis triangulum. 1988. Second revised edition. Kenneth L. Williams. Milwaukee Public Museum. x + 176 pages, color photographs and line drawings. Price: \$34.95 (paperback) + \$2.50 shipping. Available from: Publications Section--Order Department, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233 (phone 414/278-2710 for credit card orders).

This book will be familiar to many from its previous edition. The present edition is newly updated and enlarged, and contains identification keys and color pictures of 25 subspecies of *Lampropeltis triangulum*, ranging from 48 degrees N latitude to nearly 4 degrees S latitude (or put another way, from Georgian Bay, Ontario, to Guayaquil, Ecuador).

Each subspecies account includes a synonymy, location of the holotype, diagnosis of the subspecies, discussion of its range, extremely detailed description and notes on variation (often including drawings of variations in pattern), information on the natural history, and a list of specimens examined and literature records. Information on reproduction and food records are included whenever available.

There is also a short discussion of the fossil history of the species, definitions of terms (temporals, apical pits, etc.), discussions of variations and distribution, a bibliography, and an index to scientific names. There is a short but interesting list of the subspecific scientific names and what they mean. For example, the two Kansas subspecies are *gentilis*, which the author says mean "of the genus," and *syspila*, for "completely capped." However, according to the authoritative "Brown's Composition of Scientific Words," *gentilis* means belonging to the same clan or race (*not* genus!); and *syspilus* comes from sy (with) and spilus, which means a spot, speck, or stain.

The color photographs range from fair to excellent, and include seven by KHS members Joseph T. Collins and Suzanne L. Collins. Several of the photographs are underexposed, at least in the copy I received.

This book is a good example of a highly detailed study of a single species. It will be of particular value to the many people who are devoted to captive husbandry of *Lampropeltis triangulum*, but also of interest to other serious students of snakes.

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Oklahoma Herpetology: An Annotated Bibliography, by Charles C. Carpenter and James J. Krupa. 1989. University of Oklahoma Press, vii + 272 pages. 1 drawing. Price: \$21.95 (hardbound). Available from: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma 73019.

This extensive compilation covers 1,536 references, ranging from the scientific literature to popular publications, which appeared between the mid-18th century and 1987.

The text includes a checklist of Oklahoma amphibians and reptiles, an annotated bibliography, a genus and key word index, and an English name index.

The bibliography is clearly and simply annotated with scientific names and key words, and each entry is numbered for ease of cross-reference. The genus and key word index uses just the number to refer back to the bibliography, which makes locating a particular reference very quick and easy. This index is further subdivided by family and genus, and within each genus, by key words (for example: behavior, development, ecology, genetics, morphology, techniques).

A minor point, but an interesting one, is that in the introduction to the checklist on page 9, the authors state that the scientific and common names follow Banks et al. (1987), yet the introduction to the English name index says they follow both Banks et al. (1987) and Collins et al. (1982; which they improperly cite as circular no. 15 instead of circular no. 12). It appears that they have more closely followed the Banks et al. (1987) list, so they use Western narrow-mouthed toad instead of Plains narrowmouth toad, Ring-necked snake instead of Ringneck snake, and so forth.

This volume is well-organized and comprehensive in scope. It should be an invaluable reference for anyone seeking further information about amphibian or reptile species which occur in Oklahoma.

Literature Cited

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