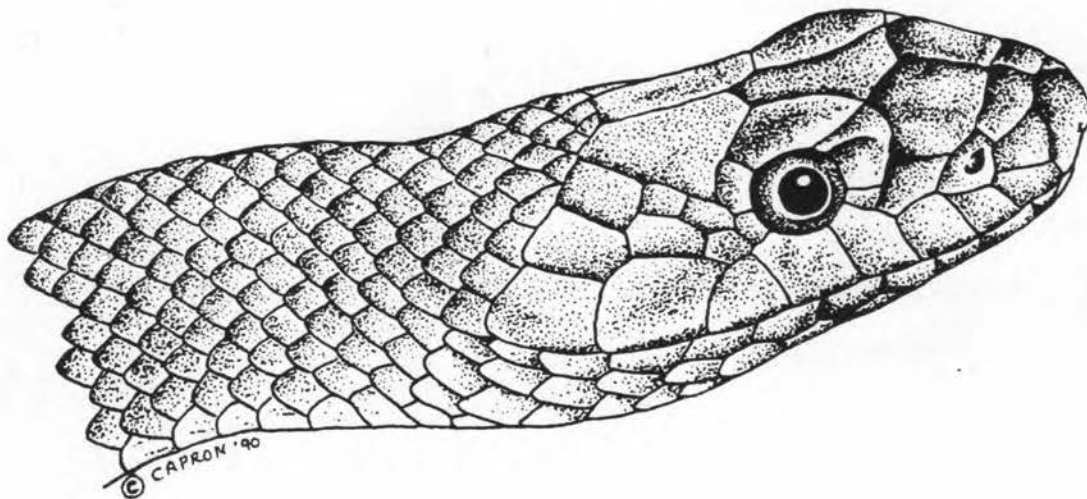


Kansas Herpetological Society



Newsletter

August 1991

Number 85

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The front cover illustration is a Western Coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum flagellum*)
by Martin B. Capron, Oxford, Kansas.

KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NO. 85

AUGUST 1991

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND CALL FOR PAPERS

The annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society will be held 2-3 November at the Auditorium of Pratt Community College in Pratt, Kansas. The featured speaker will be Dr. Victor Hutchison of the University of Oklahoma who will speak on his research into the conservation biology and ecology of the Goliath Frog (*Conraua goliath*), the world's largest frog. Other speakers include Dave Edds, Emporia State University (Ecology of Aquatic Turtles in Southeast Kansas), Joe Collins (The Revolution in Herpetology), Paul Shipman, Emporia State (Status of the Alligator Snapping Turtle in Kansas), Ken Brunson, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (The Kansas Herp Count for 1991), and Eric Rundquist (The Changing Role of Regional Herpetological Societies). At this time, and for the first time, we are issuing a Call for Contributed Papers from anyone who is interested in speaking at this meeting. Any and all contributors are welcome on any topic of herpetological interest. Send titles and a short abstract of your paper to: Larry Zuckerman, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, RR 2, Box 54A, Pratt, Kansas and Eric Rundquist, Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 Zoo Boulevard, Wichita, Kansas, 67212, FAX (316)942-3781. Titles and abstracts must be received by 15 October. Opening sessions for Saturday will begin at 9:30 am. The traditional social and auction led by the inestimable Joe Collins will be held Saturday night at 7:00 pm. Remember to bring all those valuable and precious items for the auction, as this is the primary way in which we are able to hold membership fees to such a low level. Remember **no live animals**. Sunday's session will begin at 8:30. The meeting will adjourn at 12:00 on Sunday and a special sidetrip to Bear Creek Cañon near Sun City in Barber County will be available afterwards for those interested. Bear Creek Cañon has the highest concentration of endangered or threatened herp species of any area in the state, except for Schermerhorn Park in Cherokee County.

Pratt Community College is located on U.S. Highway 61, just north of U.S. Highway 54. Information on area motels, restaurants, watering holes, dens of iniquity, and map information packets are available from Larry Zuckerman at the above address or by phone at (316)672-5911. See you in Pratt in November; we'll leave the light on for you!

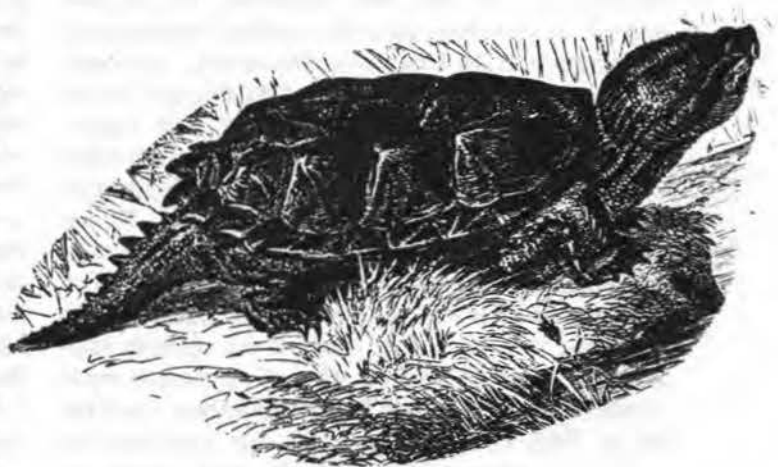
MILLER MOVES

Larry Miller, longtime member and past KHS Executive Council member, announces that he has left the cozy environs of Caldwell and has taken a job in Topeka. Larry will be teaching kindergarten through grade 8 at Topeka Collegiate School and continuing his photography business on a limited basis. His current home address is 920 SW 33rd Street, Topeka, 66611. Topeka Collegiate's address is 201 SE 59th Street, Topeka, 66619. After the turmoil in Caldwell the past few years, I am sure this is a most welcome change for Larry and that Caldwell's loss is Topeka's gain. We all wish him well in his new venture.

Larry also announces that six of his photographs (including state herps) have been featured in the July issue of *Science Probe!* magazine. These are the most photos he has had published in a national publication. Once again, congratulations are in order.

FREE PRICELIST AVAILABLE

Eagle Eye Jerry Marzec of *The Reproductive Husbandry of Pythons and Boas* fame, writes that he is offering his booklist #1014 of *Herpetological Booksellers* free of charge to KHS members. Nearly 700 titles are on this list, many are rare, and the prices are reasonable. Write to *Herpetological Booksellers* at 15 Goodwill Lane, Holbrook, New York, 11741; identify yourself as a KHS member, and you will receive your free list forthwith.



KHS BUSINESS

SPRING FIELD TRIP A SUCCESS

In spite of various obstacles (cold, driving downpours, lack of motel rooms to escape said weather, less than accurate directions), the 1991 KHS Spring Field Trip, held at Milford Reservoir near Junction City on 4-5 May, was a remarkable success. A total of 26 hardy souls managed to gather at School Creek Campground and proceed from there to various localities around the reservoir to pillage and plunder and generally commit old-fashioned KHS herpetological mayhem. Over 700 specimens of herps were found and recorded in the course of one day. This establishes a new record for a one-day herp count in the state (see J. T. Collins' article in this Newsletter for details). Although the weather was more conducive to March salamanders than May reptiles, the nasty weather obviously forced such denizens to stay put, therefore accounting for the record count. Congratulations to all involved.

On a personal note and to correct certain impressions gained by certain folks, the directions given to the campsite were correct according to material I received from the Field Trip Chairman.

— EMR

1991 KHS OFFICER CANDIDATES

The 1991 Nominating Committee, consisting of Allan Volkmann, Joseph T. Collins, and Eric M Rundquist (presiding), announces the following candidates for office for 1992: President Elect—Karen Toepfer and David Edds; Secretary/Treasurer—Olin Karch (unopposed). Karen, a graduate of Fort Hays State University, hails from Hays and has been involved with revamping the herpetology collection of Fort Hays State University. She has been active in several spring field trips and Herp Counts and is a contributor to the Newsletter. She recently received a grant from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to conduct an herpetofaunal assessment of Ellis County. David is an assistant professor at Emporia State University. Like Karen, Dave is a native Kansan and did his post-graduate studies at Oklahoma State University. He has initiated a series of field studies on aquatic turtles in southeast Kansas and was responsible, along with several of his students, for the rediscovery of the Common Map Turtle last year. He and his students are currently radiotracking and monitoring the status of the recently rediscovered Alligator Snapping Turtle that had been found and lost in 1986. Olin, of course, has ably performed the onerous task of keeping track of the Society's finances and other functions related to production of the Newsletter.

Election will occur at the General Meeting of the Society in November in Pratt.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The Executive Council of KHS has proposed an amendment of the following bylaw: Article VII, Section 3. "A member in arrears for payment of dues for a period of six months after conclusion of the current membership year shall be dropped from the role after due notice from the Secretary-Treasurer." The proposed amendment reads as follows: "A member in arrears for payment of dues for a period of **three months** after conclusion of the current membership year shall be dropped from the role after due notice from the Secretary-Treasurer."

The purpose of this amendment is to reduce Society costs associated with the Newsletter by being forced to carry former members for two issues of the Newsletter rather than one issue. This is a waste of Society funds. This amendment will be voted on by the general membership at the Annual Meeting in November.

EDITORIAL POLICY REDUX

There has apparently been some confusion amongst contributors to this Newsletter as regards deadlines for submission of articles and papers. To reiterate, the deadline for consideration of publication of any material submitted is *one month* prior to the date of publication. For example, for an article to be considered for publication in the November issue, material must be received by 1 October. The KHS Newsletter is published quarterly: February, May, August, and November. As stated in an earlier issue, my *personal* deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication. This is the date on which the Newsletter is sent for publication. It is **not** the date by which any material can be submitted for last minute consideration. Any material received after the first of the month prior will only be considered for future Newsletters. Also, material received will not necessarily be run in the upcoming issue of the Newsletter, in part because of material backlog, relevance to a particular issue, or because a paper has been sent out for peer review. Our turnaround time for article publication is good for a newsletter and most folks can count on their material being published within two issues after receipt but, please, understand that I am under a set page length for this Newsletter and only so many articles can be included. I regret any confusion caused by past editorial policy statements.

— EMR

Editor's first note: The following letter has been printed verbatim as received.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR (AND OTHERS)

To All the Wild Game, Endangered Species, Plants, Critters, and People or To Whom It May Concern:

As I look into my crystal ball I see a great battle looming between the villains, the farmer and Soil Conservation Service, versus the saviors of the world, Wildlife and Parks. I see in the ball the year 2000. I see the Wildlife and Parks prospering both in power and real estate. Thanks to mitigation they now control almost ten percent of the land of Kansas. Although their duties have been doubled they now have ample money to pay. I see a Soil Conservation Service Agency pushed into almost dormancy as nobody can afford the price of mitigation. Maybe it's their own fault. They should have gone into the real estate business fifty years ago. Also there is nowhere in the United States that doesn't contain habitat for some species of animals or plants, endangered or not. Maybe food or water is not so important anyway. I imagine you would have a hard time convincing those Kurds in the mountains of Turkey that endangered species are first.

I see a disgruntled farm population. As land holders, their only rights on their land is to pay taxes and watch an out of control deer, turkey, and goose population which Wildlife and Parks brought in and stuffed down their throats.

I see the bob white quail down to 32 pairs in Kansas. Oh well, they can always go down to Mexico and get some more quail even though they can't whistle bob white. As I turn the ball to 2010, I see the farm groups rebelling against the havoc caused by deer, turkey, and geese. They are trying to bring back into proportionment by poisoning, shooting, or by whatever means they have. I see farmers joining the animal rights movement. I see the Wildlife and Parks agency petting and cuddling the little critters on their ten percent, while the farmers on their ninety percent are stomping the little critters until their beady eyes pop out of their sockets. Maybe the farmers could have put their land in the CRP ten year program if they hadn't done conservation work, on the other hand we couldn't have afforded the luxury. If nothing had been done in the last fifty-five years, we would be an importing nation today as we couldn't have fed our people. I see a very happy Animal Rights Organization, as they get thrown into their laps what they never could have acquired by working for. They are furnishing the signs and installing them. The signs say "No Hunting."

I see a Wildlife and Parks agency being reduced to patrolling the parks. As their income is almost shut off, they have to go to the government for more money. Because there is such a small percent of the population that hunts and

endangered species are just something they have read about, the taxpayers just won't allow the expenditures.

As I turn the ball to 2015, I see the Wildlife and Parks deciding to do what they were organized and paid to do in their beginning. I see them educating people on the value of the endangered species, where they are located, and whose responsibility they are, as the average person knows very little about them. I see them giving up their real estate ventures. I see them working with their best ally the Soil Conservation Service.

The crystal ball might not be smart enough to project who would win in this struggle but a kindergarten student could tell you who the loser would be though, "Wild Game and Endangered Species."

(signed) Fred Giefer
Crawford County, Kansas

Second editor's note: The preceding letter came across my desk some time ago and I debated seriously about whether or not to print it. My first reaction, as well as my second reaction, was that it was just the same run-of-the-mill, paranoid, crackpot nonsense I have been hearing for years and it would serve no good purpose to give it more credit than it deserved. Having had a running debate with my ladyfriend over a certain possibly relevant animal observation question, I attempted to give Mr. Giefer's letter a little more serious consideration and consequently you have just read his views. This is not to say that I agree with them (I most vehemently don't and will tell you why shortly) but I believe that it is important for us get an occasional look at what others are thinking about issues with which we are concerned. At this point, I ask that you reread Mr. Giefer's letter and see if you can view it from a different perspective than that of someone only concerned about the plight of herps in this state.

Okay, you're back from your reread and I will now tear into the many fallacies of the Mr. Giefer's letter. First, the Department of Wildlife and Parks does not control mitigated land. That land is set aside per agreement between KDWP and the party which has destroyed critical habitat and is managed to maintain viable populations of species on that set-aside.

Second, Mr. Giefer errs badly when he states that "there is nowhere in the United States that doesn't contain habitat for some species of animals or plants, endangered or not." The reason that a species becomes endangered in the vast majority of cases is that habitat has been destroyed or altered so that it is uninhabitable by a species. This is the motivation behind land mitigation; replace what you destroy. I'm sorry, Mr. Giefer, but it is not just a simple case of moving a Western Green Toad to Crawford County or a Longtail Salamander to a pond in Stephens County.

Third, those Kurds were in the mountains of Turkey

because of a genocidal campaign by a narcissistic megalomaniac in Iraq and I agree that it's a little hard to concentrate on endangered species of another kind when you yourself are one. However, if it is the year 2000, those Kurds have long since been repatriated back to their homelands and perhaps they *are* concerned about a different kind of endangered species.

Fourth, KDWP did not and has not "stuffed" deer, turkeys, and geese down anybody's throat. Even if they had, what does that have to do with mitigation, Mr. Giefer?

Fifth, KDWP is already doing what they have been organized for and are paid to do. They are the most active statewide organization in terms of educating the public on endangered species and in determining the best route by which to effectively manage those species. The name in their title is *Wildlife* not *Wild Game*, Mr. Giefer, and they have *always* been bound by their charter to protect and conserve all native species in this state. It is only recently that they have been allowed to do so.

Final point: the losers in 2015 are not "Wild Game and Endangered Species." They already are losers. The real losers are the citizens of this state who have so poorly managed their own natural resources that they destroyed a vital heritage for all future generations to come.

Having said all that, I must admit to a certain understanding of and sympathy for Mr. Giefer's positions and statements. For instance, I believe that Mr. Giefer is correct when he states that a great battle is looming, although not necessarily between the parties he mentioned. Environmental politics in this state have become increasingly emotional and confrontational of late. I have noticed various lines being drawn in the sands, with accusing fingers pointing at will. I cannot help but believe that this trend is bad for all parties involved. It has also been my observation that frequently the last item considered by environmentalists in any environmental issue is *people*. This misanthropic bent bodes ill for such forces and, at the least, is counterproductive; at worst, fatal to our interests and intent. We must *always* remember that *people* are the issue here. That Broadhead Skink in Crawford County could give a damn whether or not we are attempting to secure habitat for its continued existence as a species in this state.

So, in closing, I would ask that each of you take a good, hard look at your own feelings and opinions on whatever environmental issue that concerns you and see where people fit into it and, if there is no room for them, ask yourself just what the sense of such a stance makes. Conservation and compromise, not preservation and self-righteousness, are the roads to our continued existence. Mother Earth will be here long after we are gone and it is in our hands to decide how long we get to share with her, either as participants or as mulch.

KHS FALL FIELD TRIP

As your official KHS Field Trip Chairman, I was asked at the spring trip to reinstate fall field trips. So, for those of you who missed the trip in May, here's your chance to go afield one more time in '91. The KHS will meet in Linn County at La Cygne Lake on 27-29 September. La Cygne Lake is located 5 miles due east of the town of La Cygne, at the Kansas Highway 152 exit off of US Highway 69, and approximately 6.5 miles north of Trading Post. There is a state park campground located about 1 mile east of US Highway 69 on the west side of the lake. Just watch for and follow the official brown park signs. Since I do not have a detailed map of the park for specific campground locations, I will attempt to have signs posted to direct people to the KHS campsite. This park is not that big so it should be easy to find the group. Since I am living in south Texas for the summer, this is the best I can do. The fall field trips in the past have proven to be quite productive and the beautiful Marais des Cygnes River valley should provide ample herping opportunities. Bring plenty of friends and we will see you in Linn County!

— Kelly J. Irwin



KHS BRINGS YOU GREAT NEWS OF THE WORLD

OMAR RETURNS HOME TO ONION CREEK

Omar, the only documented Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrolemys temminckii*) in Kansas, is back home in Onion Creek.

The large and rare turtle was originally captured from the creek in 1986. Joe Collins, a zoologist with the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas, came down to study the turtle and named it Omar.

"I'm not sure why he picked the name Omar, but what is worse yet is it turned to be a female," said Doug Blex, field supervisor for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks at Elk City Lake. "My wife says it should be called Omareta, but Omar is the name that stuck."

[The 59.4 pound turtle was] measured, photographed, and tagged with a radio transmitter, then released into Onion Creek, a tributary of the Verdigris River in southeast Kansas.

Blex said the living experiment was jinxed from the start by a faulty transmitter and receiver. The turtle wasn't seen again until May 27, 1991, when three young anglers found Omar tangled in their set lines. They tracked Blex down, and Omar became an instant celebrity in the wildlife world.

Blex said Wildlife and Parks wanted to educate people about the Alligator Snapping Turtle to help protect it and to learn how to identify it. He hopes people will report any additional sightings to Wildlife and Parks.

"We kind of took the turtle on the road," Blex said. "We went to WalMart in Coffeyville, Elk City State Park, and the K Mart parking lot in Independence. In three weeks we had about 4,000 people view the turtle and learn about its habits."

Blex said he was surprised at the public interest in the turtle. Everyone from youngsters to grandparents crowded around his truck at the store parking lots.

"It was supposed to be a two-hour program, but almost everywhere we went it turned into a four-hour program," Blex said. "They were relentless."

But then the party was over.

Everyone knew it was time for Omar to head home. Two transmitters (an extra one for insurance against the other's failure) were attached to her shell and all of the biological data recorded.

Blex said David Edds, an associate professor of biology at Emporia State, and several of his students will monitor the turtle's movements every 30 minutes for the first two weeks.

After that she will be monitored weekly for at least a

year to track her movement in the river. Blex said from 1986 to 1991, the turtle moved 3.73 stream miles from where it was released.

"We had mixed emotions (about letting it go)," Blex said. "We were glad it was going back to its habitat, but we've grown quite emotionally attached to her."

"At our last photo session just before we released her, everybody picked her up and got their picture taken with her. She's getting up in her years; she may die, and we may never see another live one. That part of it makes you stop and think."

— Wichita Eagle, 12 June 1991
(submitted by Jack Shumard, Wichita)

KU HERPETOLOGIST FINDS NICHE IN REWRITING FIELD GUIDE

Joe Collins is a mighty happy herpetologist.

At 51, his dream has come true. He has co-authored a Peterson Field Guide, and he's not sure what he'll do to top it.

"If you're in herpetology, and you write a field guide, you have reached more people interested in amphibians and reptiles than anyone else can even remotely hope to reach," Collins said from his office in the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas. "This is the field guide, the one I cut my teeth on when I was a child."

Of the 42 field guides produced by Peterson, there are two dealing with herpetology: *Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America*, and *Reptiles and Amphibians of Western North America*. Collins and Roger Conant, the hero of Collins' youth, co-authored the larger volume, *Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America*.

Anyone with even a passing knowledge of the outdoor world has, at one time, paged through one or more of the field guides created by Roger Tory Peterson, an eminent birder and the inventor of the modern field guide. No matter what subject the guides cover, they are widely used as textbooks at every level of education.

What makes Collins' achievement even more significant for him is he was asked to co-author the third edition of *Reptiles and Amphibians* by the man who wrote the original guide in 1958, then updated it with a second edition in 1975.

"The first edition came out in 1958 when I was a callow youth of 18; it was the book I treasured the most," Collins said. "(Roger) Conant is now over 80 years of age

and selected me as his heir apparent."

Pretty heady stuff for a guy armed only with an Associate of Arts degree in zoology and working in a university atmosphere steeped in Ph.Ds primed to publish or perish. Collins has already published more than many academicians in his field, and he shows no signs of slowing down.

[Collins] has written more books about Kansas wildlife than anyone in the history of the state. He authored *Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas* and is co-author of *Fishes in Kansas* and *Natural Kansas*. Most recently he co-authored *Reptiles and Amphibians of the Cimarron National Grasslands* with his wife Suzanne.

As a zoologist and editor of the museum's publications, Collins isn't required to possess or pursue degrees beyond the zoology degree he received from the University of Cincinnati in 1967.

"I was going for a B. A. in psychology when KU called, and I took the job starting January 1, 1968," Collins said. "I was originally hired as the collections manager for the herpetology collection, but I've since moved out of there into the editorship."

Philip Humphrey, director of the Museum of Natural History, is the man who hired Collins and has watched him grow professionally for more than two decades.

"I think it was a great honor for him to be selected to co-author the field guide," Humphrey said. "Joe's professional development over the years has been spectacular. He does a lot of good for the museum on the lecture circuit, and we all respect him a great deal."

Humphrey noted that Peterson himself is not a man of letters, that his background was in the arts, but he since been awarded an honorary Ph.D. in the biological sciences.

"Peterson came up with this marvelous idea of the field guide concept, which has basically been a boon for conservation on a world scale and for educating the masses about the diversity of living things," Humphrey said.

Larry Zuckerman, president of the Kansas Herpetological Society, believes Collins shows what a person can achieve without ringing all of the academic bells.

"He's a real interesting example of someone who is able to become a world expert in amphibians and reptiles without a master (sic) or Ph.D. when everyone else needs that to get in the door," Zuckerman said. "He's gotten in that door because he is so good at it."

What appears to excite Collins most about working on the field guide is being chosen by Conant, a man he believes helped chart his path into the world of things who live close to the earth.

Collins remembers growing up in Ohio, where he began his quest to learn about lizards, skinks (sic), and snakes.

"Roger Conant wrote his first book when he lived in Ohio; it was called *The Reptiles of Ohio*," Collins said. "*The Reptiles of Ohio* came out in 1951, so he was already our hero. He just became a bigger hero in 1958 when the field guide came out."

In the early 1980s, Collins was aware of Conant's intention to update his second edition. His level of anticipation grew when he received a letter from Conant saying he had something "extremely important" to talk with him about at the 1983 [annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles and Herpetologist's League] at Salt Lake City.

At the meeting, Conant signed up Collins for the third edition, and they've been working on it for the past seven years. Conant was in Florida and was not available for comment.

"It was a great experience," Collins said. "I grew up admiring the man for over a quarter of a century and then to be able to co-author the book I literally learned about amphibians and reptiles from."

Collins said the third edition included so many major changes in biological data that the 1975 edition has become obsolete. The book includes [accounts of] 595 species, subspecies, and new species; 333 maps showing species distribution and ranges; 656 color plate illustrations; and 384 drawings.

He said about 30 new species have been discovered in North America or have been introduced onto the continent.

"Alien species I call them," Collins said of the new species brought here from other countries and released into the environment. "We've got one in our own state. In south Topeka at 21st and Gage Boulevard, we have the Italian Wall Lizard (*Podarcis sicula*), and it has been there for 40 years."

Collins said an animal dealer lived there in the 1950s, and when he passed away, his wife turned them loose or they got loose because he didn't keep his cages very tight.

"They now are fairly solidly established," he said. "They're not dangerous; they're little green lizards, and they like to live in areas that are somewhat run down. They come from the exact same latitude in Italy as Topeka, Kansas. People at the Topeka Zoo are keeping a census on the little devils."

What does Collins plan to do for an encore?

"It's already been agreed," he said. "I'll be doing the fourth edition around the year 2000 . . . by myself."

The field guide will be available this month from Houghton-Mifflin Publishing. Cost is \$24.95 clothbound or \$16.95 paperback.

— Wichita Eagle, 5 May 1991
(submitted by Jack Shumard, Wichita)

SEA TURTLE SUCCESS

In October, six months after México announced its new law banning the killing of sea turtles, a team of investigators from Earth Island's Sea Turtle Restoration Project (STRP) returned to the seaside factory where more than 30,000 endangered sea turtles were dismembered last year. We are happy to report that the slaughterhouse has been shut down.

The mountains of broken turtle shells are gone. The blood has disappeared. The buildings are crumbling. This comes barely one year after STRP announced its campaign to save México's turtles with the release of an eye-witness account [see last KHS Newsletter] and videotapes documenting the senseless slaughter of Olive Ridley Turtles [*Eretmochelys olivacea*].

In the months following passage of the ban it was difficult to reach a conclusive determination of México's compliance. That has to await the arrival of [a] new turtle nesting season. Would the Mexican government truly have the resolve to enforce the new ban?

Our investigators on the scene in México observed the government's apparently vigorous enforcement of the new law and documented the arrest and prosecution of poachers. The Mexican government deserves to be commended for its diligence.

However, until México formally joins the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), we have no assurances that if public attention wanes the turtle slaughter will not begin again. Once México has joined CITES, this will make it very difficult for a future president to reverse the ban. Mexico currently stands alone as the only nation in the Western Hemisphere that has not yet signed this international wildlife treaty.

It was extremely satisfying to be on hand to witness the arrival of some of the 75,000 turtles who came to lay their eggs unmolested during a nesting ritual that has continued since before the days of the dinosaur. The *arribada* on October 13 comprised the largest nesting assemblage in five years. Environmentalists believe the large number of turtles is at least partially a result of the fact that this year tens of thousands of nesting turtles were not slaughtered before they had a chance to nest.

Sustainable economic alternatives now must be found for the local communities affected by the ban. The STRP team's most exciting contacts were made with Center for Eco-Development and with the Union of Indigenous Communities/100 Years of Solitude, representing 40 local communities along the Oaxacan coast. We hope to be working with these organizations to develop a community-owned and -controlled eco-tourism plan that will make the turtle worth much more as a living treasure than as a dead reptile hacked into marketable parts. The tentative plan

includes a sea turtle natural history museum (to be built on the site of the abandoned slaughterhouse), excursions to watch the turtles nest and ocean trips to see turtles swimming in the open sea. The project would be owned and managed by the local communities.

It is still possible to find illegal turtle eggs for sale in the Tepito Market in México City. A popular drink among the local men consists of three turtle eggs and a dash of salsa served up in a Dixie cup. Meanwhile, a loophole in México's recent turtle protection law allows the continued sale of sea turtle boots under the assumption that they were made from turtles killed before the ban became effective.

The complicated accounting system set up by the Mexican government to keep track of pre-ban products does not appear to be adequately enforced and may not be working. We have even received reports of a sea turtle taco stand operating now in Baja California. We plan to follow up on these reports to the best of our ability and will provide updates on future developments.

What you can do: Keep writing letters to President Salinas de Gortari (Palacio Nacional, México 06066 DF) and demand that México eliminate all turtle products, join CITES without reservations, and close the loopholes in the turtle ban.

— Earth Island Journal, Winter 1991
(submitted by John Simmons, Lawrence)

BOY SAVED FROM PET PYTHON

A 12-foot pet python wrapped itself around a 9-year-old boy and was trying to swallow him when help arrived, an official said.

"When the paramedics got there the snake had its mouth around the boy's foot," said Fire Department spokesman Bob Caldon. "It was looking for its next meal." The boy, Alex Henry, was home alone Saturday when the snake began to coil itself around him. The boy screamed to neighbors for help.

Paramedics scared the snake into dropping the boy's foot and then grabbed it behind the head and unwrapped it from the boy's body, Caldon said. The boy's foot had minor puncture wounds, but he was otherwise unharmed.

— Wichita Eagle, 24 June 1991
(submitted by Jack Shumard, Wichita)



FEATURE ARTICLES

REPORT ON THE RECAPTURE OF AN ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE (*MACROCLEMYS TEMMINCKII*) IN KANSAS

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An adult female alligator snapping turtle, *Macrochelys temminckii*, was captured 31 May 1991 in Onion Creek, Montgomery County, Kansas. This turtle had previously been captured 11 April 1986 by one of us (DB) as it was crossing a road ca. 50 m from a low-water bridge (Capron 1986). The turtle was recaptured by Gary, Greg, and Scott Larkin of the Tyro area, and had been snagged under the nuchal scute by a bank line with an unbaited 6/0 hook in water 0.5 m deep. As they were examining the turtle, these fishermen noticed a radio tag that had been attached during a previous biotelemetry study (Capron 1986) and, realizing the significance of their find, took the turtle to DB.

The site of recapture was 7.0 river-km (4.4 river-mi) upstream from where it had last been located on 5 June 1986, as measured by a digital planimeter from aerial photographs. This movement supports Pritchard's (1979, 1989) upstream migration hypothesis for this species, which states that certain individuals may continually migrate upstream in the Mississippi River drainage until they are very old, large, and few. Further support for this hypothesis is suggested by the information that follows.

Carapace scute annuli were counted and age was estimated at 45 yr, per the method of Dobie (1971). We made nine annuli counts on three different readable scutes: 37, 41, 41, 45, 45, 47, 47, 50, and 51; mean = 44.9, median = 45. This estimate is old for this species in the wild; in Louisiana, Dobie (1971) found that a 36-year-old male was the oldest specimen for which annuli could be counted. Body measurements were also taken and compared to measurements taken in 1986. Carapace length (CL) remained the same, 50.8 cm (20 in), straight-line, maximum; midline 46.4 cm (18.25 in). Despite the appearance that the turtle was in good health, mass was 24.7 kg (54.4 lb) as compared to 26.9 kg (59.4 lb) in 1986. These measurements indicate that the individual is large for a female, as Pritchard (1989) notes the largest recorded female weighed 29 kg (64 lb) and had a CL of 48.9 cm (19.25 in).

The turtle was maintained in a stock tank after its capture and then transported by personnel of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) to Independence, Coffeyville, and Elk City State Park for display and educational purposes. A fecal sample was obtained one day after capture and contained remnants of muskrat (identified by Dr. Dwight Moore, ESU) and crayfish. Measurements and a radiograph were taken at that time. We determined that this turtle was not gravid, as was found after a similar radiograph in 1986 (Capron 1986).

The turtle was fitted with ultrasonic transmitters on 18 June 1991 and released at the site of capture on 19 June 1991 for a biotelemetry study to monitor its movement and to investigate its ecology and behavior throughout the year. Microhabitat characteristics measured at each site include cover, vegetation, amount of shade, depth, current speed, substrate type, distance from shore, and distance from last location.

Preliminary data from our study indicate an upstream movement by this specimen, as it moved 0.46 km upstream during the first two weeks. The fastest movement we have measured for this turtle is 8.4 m/min for 12 minutes. However, this turtle is generally very sedentary, having had as many as eight days of inactivity between movements. Movement data indicate that this turtle is active for relatively short periods that are exclusively limited to early morning hours. The activity has been recorded to last one-three hr, and begins between 0200–0700 hr. Prior to its release, DB also noted activity occurring in the early morning which corresponded to Capron's (1986) observations of activity occurring between 0200–0500 hr.

This *M. temminckii* is the only wild specimen known to exist in Kansas. Such rarity also supports the upstream migration hypothesis. Both captures created a great amount of attention and curiosity within the state, having received coverage from newspapers, radio, and television. Newspaper accounts of the 1986 capture were summarized

in Kansas Herpetological Society Newsletter No. 65 (1986).

The continued study of this turtle offers potentially valuable information because there are virtually no data concerning its habitat, food, and behavior in Kansas other than a record of a briefly observed mating in the Arkansas River (Capron 1975). Due to an apparent decline of *M. temminckii* sightings in Kansas during the last century, the species has been placed on the KDWP "Species In Need Of Conservation" list; a petition to "uplist" its status to "endangered" has recently been filed. In addition, there appears to be a decline of this turtle throughout the main part of its range in the southeastern United States due to exploitation by commercial trappers and by habitat alteration resulting from the damming of rivers (Pritchard 1989). *M. temminckii* is presently a "candidate species" being considered for listing by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Listing of this species has been delayed due to lack of data concerning its conservation status (Anonymous 1984), some of which we hope to provide. Funding for this project is provided by Emporia State University through a Faculty Research and Creativity Grant and by the

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks from the Kansas Nongame Wildlife Improvement Fund.

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RESULTS OF THIRD KANSAS HERP COUNT HELD DURING APRIL-MAY 1991

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The third KHS-sponsored Kansas Herp Count, a controlled census of amphibians and reptiles held annually by various Kansas groups during the months of April and May, took place in 1991. The main count was that sponsored by the Kansas Herpetological Society at its annual field trip. Thirteen other counts are also reported herein, demonstrating various approaches to censusing amphibians and reptiles. Common names are those standardized by Collins (1990).

KHS Holds Third Herp Count During Annual Field Trip to Clay County

The Kansas Herpetological Society held its traditional annual spring field trip in Clay County, Kansas, assembling at Milford Lake over the weekend of 3-4 May 1991. The 26 participants also took part in the Third KHS Annual Herp Count, held on Friday, 4 May, and Saturday, 5 May (ca. 12 hours total).

The herp count, in which participants worked in teams and maintained a record of all amphibians and reptiles observed in Clay County, centered around the northern edge of Milford Lake on Friday evening and all day Saturday, and consisted primarily of rock-turning. The

final tally is listed below.

Woodhouse's Toad	11
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	13
Plains Leopard Frog	1
Plains Narrowmouth Toad	39
Ornate Box Turtle	2
Eastern Collared Lizard	14
Great Plains Skink	93
Prairie Racerunner	4
Prairie Ringneck Snake	472
Eastern Yellowbelly Racer	13
Great Plains Rat Snake	40
Rat Snake	1
Bullsnake	2
Milk Snake	8
Lined Snake	2
Northern Water Snake	1

Total

16 species 716 specimens

Participants in this third annual KHS herp count were (in

alphabetical order): Ann Bradley, Terence Brotherton, Keith Coleman, Joseph T. Collins, Suzanne L. Collins, Donna Cooper, Elysium Drumm, Jim Gubanyi, Marla Gubanyi, Kelly Irwin, Dan Johnson, Olin Karch, Kara Kramer, Larry Miller, LeAnne Pelzel, Stan Rassmussen, David Reber, Eric M Rundquist, Curtis Schmidt, Nancy Schwarting, Travis Taggart, Karen Toepfer, Russell Toepfer, Mark Van Doren, Jeff Whipple, and Suzanne Whipple. Verifier was Joseph T. Collins.

The fourth KHS Herp Count will be held in conjunction with the annual KHS Field Trip in May 1992.

Third Sumner County Herp Count

Larry Miller, former esteemed resident of Caldwell, Kansas, and now a distinguished teacher at Topeka Collegiate in our state capital, conducted his annual spring herp count in Sumner County in Sec. 15, T35S, R3W on 15 April 1991 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. The afternoon's tally was as follows:

Great Plains Toad	1
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	3
Plains Narrowmouth Toad	19
Ornate Box Turtle	2
Eastern Fence Lizard	3
Prairie Skink	6
Prairie Ringneck Snake	10
Rat Snake	2
Ground Snake	3
Lined Snake	3

Total

10 species 52 specimens

Verifier was Larry Miller.

First Anderson County Herp Count

Led by Amy Lathrop, a spring herp count was held in Anderson County, Kansas, at a site 2.5 mi S Garnett on U.S. Rt. 59. On 28 April 1991, three participants covered the areas selected for the count, observing amphibians and reptiles for a total of 1.5 hours (5:00 to 6:30 pm). The tally was:

Eastern Collared Lizard	2
Ground Skink	1
Five-lined Skink	3
Great Plains Skink	2
Western Slender Glass Lizard	1
Western Worm Snake	3
Prairie Ringneck Snake	7
Flathead Snake	3
Osage Copperhead	4

Total

9 species 26 specimens

Participants in the first Anderson County herp count were Amy Lathrop, Jeff Parmalee, and Kevin Toal. Verifier was Amy Lathrop.

First Jefferson County Herp Count

Led by Suzanne L. Collins, a spring herp count was held in southern Jefferson County, Kansas, in the Buck Creek area on 28 April 1991. From 10:30 am to 1:30 pm, three participants lifted rocks and road-cruised. The tally was:

American Toad	7
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	1
Western Painted Turtle	1
Five-lined Skink	2
Great Plains Skink	3
Prairie Ringneck Snake	4
Eastern Yellowbelly Racer	2
Rat Snake	1
Common Garter Snake	1
Osage Copperhead	2

Total

10 species 24 specimens

Participants in the first Jefferson County herp count were Larry Miller, Suzanne L. Collins, and Joseph T. Collins. Verifier was Joseph T. Collins.

First 4-H Rock Springs Camp Herp Count

Led by Eric Rundquist, a spring herp count was conducted at 4-H Rock Springs Camp in Geary County, Kansas, on 5 May 1991. Three participants recorded the following:

Great Plains Skink	2
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Total

1 species 2 specimens

Participants in the first 4-H Rock Springs Camp herp count were Eric M Rundquist, Ann Bradley, and Terence Brotherton. Verifier was Eric M. Rundquist.

First Marion County Herp Count

Led by Eric Rundquist, a spring herp count was conducted at a site 15.9 mi N jct. U.S. Rt. 50 & Ks. Rt. 77 in Marion County, Kansas, on 5 May 1991. Three participants recorded the following:

Blanchard's Cricket Frog	1
Western Chorus Frog	2
Plains Narrowmouth Toad	3
Great Plains Skink	1
Lined Snake	9

Total

5 species 16 specimens

Participants in the first Marion County herp count were Eric M Rundquist, Ann Bradley, and Terence Brotherton. Verifier was Eric M Rundquist.

Third Cowley County Herp Count

Led by Jim Marlett, a spring herp count was held on 11 May 1991 at Sec. 1, T35S, R4E in Cowley County. Participants observed and collected amphibians and reptiles during a 2.5 hour period (1:30 to 4:00 pm) and tallied the following:

Bullfrog	3
Plains Narrowmouth Toad	6
Eastern Collared Lizard	1
Ground Skink	3
Great Plains Skink	2
Prairie Racerunner	1
Prairie Ringneck Snake	2
Coachwhip	2
Osage Copperhead	2

Total

9 species 22 specimens

Participants in the third Cowley County herp count were: Jim Marlett, Patty Marlett, Eddie Stegall, Connie Elpers, and members of the Wichita Audubon Society. Verifier was Jim Marlett.

First Johnson County Herp Count

On 13 May 1991 Kevin Toal and Randy Reiserer conducted a spring herp count in Johnson County, Kansas, at a site 12 mi E Eudora on Cedar Creek Parkway North. From 4:00 to 7:30 pm, they observed amphibians and reptiles, and the tally was:

American Toad	4
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	10
Gray Treefrog	2
Plains Narrowmouth Toad	6
Ornate Box Turtle	4
Five-lined Skink	6
Great Plains Skink	5

Western Worm Snake	6
Prairie Ringneck Snake	15
Flathead Snake	2
Common Kingsnake	2
Osage Copperhead	2

Total

12 species 64 specimens

Verifier was Kevin Toal.

Second Ellis County Herp Count

Led by Karen Toepfer, a two-day spring herp count was held in Ellis County, Kansas, in eight sections. On 24 & 26 May 1991, 23 participants covered the areas selected for the count, observing amphibians and reptiles over a combined total of 12 hours. A tally of all sections for both days resulted in:

Woodhouse's Toad	24
Plains Leopard Frog	14
Bullfrog	7
Plains Narrowmouth Toad	3
Yellow Mud Turtle	7
Ornate Box Turtle	4
Western Painted turtle	56
Red-eared Slider	4
Western Spiny Softshell	2
Eastern Collared Lizard	20
Texas Horned Lizard	1
Prairie Racerunner	15
Western Hognose Snake	1
Prairie Ringneck Snake	31
Plains Blackhead Snake	1
Eastern Yellowbelly Racer	1
Great Plains Rat Snake	2
Bullsnake	2
Milk Snake	3
Western Ribbon Snake	1
Western Plains Garter Snake	2
Prairie Rattlesnake	2

Total

22 species 203 specimens

Participants in the second Ellis County herp count were (in alphabetical order): Donna Cooper, Mark Cooper, Kami Farr, Rebecca Farr, Carl Holdren, Kara Kramer, Cindy Lang, Nathan Lang, Tara Lang, Chris Meiers, Scott Meyer, LuAnne Pelzel, Paul Prew, Curtis Schmidt, Loren Schmidt, Matt Shepker, Travis Taggart, Karen Toepfer, Russell Toepfer, Mark Van Doren, Greg Walters, Ruth Walters, and Chris Wolf. Verifier was Karen Toepfer.

Third Belvidere Area Herp Count

Led by Ken Brunson, a spring herp count was held for 24 hours from 24 May to 25 May 1991 in the area of Belvidere. Sixteen participants turned rocks and observed through walking (32 person hours) along with driving (228 miles from eight observers in four different vehicles over a four hour period). The weather ranged from the low 60's F to low 90's F with a light breeze under partly cloudy skies.

Plains Spadefoot	20
Great Plains Toad	76
Woodhouse's Toad	42
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	212
Western Chorus Frog	12
Toads (unidentified)	38
Bullfrog	51
Plains Leopard Frog	1
Plains Narrowmouth Toad	4
Common Snapping Turtle	2
Yellow Mud Turtle	5
Ornate Box Turtle	6
Western Painted Turtle	5
Water Turtle (unidentified)	1
Eastern Collared Lizard	3
Northern Prairie Lizard	1
Southern Prairie Skink	1
Prairie Racerunner	7
Northern Water Snake	3
Blotched Water Snake	2
Red-sided Garter Snake	2
Bullsnake	3
Western Coachwhip	1

Total

22 species 502 specimens

Participants in the third Belvidere area herp count were Kevin Becker, Andi Brunson, Jessi Brunson, Ken Brunson, Katelin Brunson, Lee Ann Brunson, Holly Harding, Logan Harding, Mark Kumberg, Carol Mammoliti, Kirk Mammoliti, Jennifer Rogers, Eric Schenk, Larry Zuckerman, and Jon Zuercher. Verifier was Ken Brunson.

Second Russell County Herp Count

Led by Karen Toepfer, a spring herp count was held in Russell County, Kansas, at four localities (Secs. 28 & 33, T12S, R14W, and Secs. 25 & 26, T11S, R14W). On 25 May 1991, 10 participants searched the four areas selected for the count, observing amphibians and reptiles for 5.5 hours. The tally was:

Woodhouse's Toad	1
Western Chorus Frog	6
Plains Leopard Frog	47
Plains Narrowmouth Toad	19
Yellow Mud Turtle	2
Ornate Box Turtle	2
Eastern Fence Lizard	1
Great Plains Skink	9
Prairie Racerunner	15
Prairie Ringneck Snake	2
Plains Blackhead Snake	2
Eastern Yellowbelly Racer	1
Great Plains Rat Snake	6
Bullsnake	2
Milk Snake	3
Ground Snake	4
Lined Snake	10

Total

17 species 132 specimens

Participants in the second Russell County herp count were (in alphabetical order): Donna Cooper, Chris Meiers, Scott Meyer, Tisha Quick, Eddy Rasmussen, Curtis Schmidt, Karen Toepfer, Russell Toepfer, Mark VanDoren, and Chris Wolf. Verifier was Karen Toepfer.

First Sheridan County Herp Count

Suzanne L. Collins and Joseph T. Collins conducted a spring herp count in eastern Sheridan County, Kansas, on 26 May 1991 between 4:00 and 7:30 pm. While road-cruising, they recorded the following:

Woodhouse's Toad	1
Ornate Box Turtle	4
Eastern Yellowbelly Racer	1
Bullsnake	4

Total

4 species 10 specimens

Verifier was Joseph T. Collins.

Lawrence to El Dorado Herp Count

On 27 May 1991, Eric M Rundquist conducted a spring herp count between Lawrence and El Dorado on I-70 and I-35. While road-cruising 133 miles, he recorded the following:

Common Snapping Turtle	3
Ornate Box Turtle	20
Western Painted Turtle	2

Red-eared Slider	4
Bullsnake	2

Total

5 species 31 specimens

First Butler-Sedgwick County Herp Count

On 27 May 1991, Eric M Rundquist conducted a spring herp count in Butler and Sedgwick counties, Kansas, between El Dorado and Wichita on Ks. Rt. 254. While road-cruising 22 miles, he recorded the following:

Common Snapping Turtle	2
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Ornate Box Turtle	12
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Total

2 species 14 specimens

GRAND TOTAL OF 13 COUNTS HELD STATEWIDE IN 1991

48 species 1814 specimens.

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BAIT PREFERENCES OF SEMI-AQUATIC TURTLES IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

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Few studies of bait preferences of semi-aquatic turtles have been conducted. Ernst (1965) showed that *Chrysemys picta* (Western Painted Turtle) and *Sternotherus odoratus* (Common Musk Turtle) in Ohio preferred canned sardines, while *Chelydra serpentina* (Common Snapping Turtle) preferred fowl entrails and fresh fish. Vogt (1981) demonstrated the following food preferences for three forms of *Graptemys* in Wisconsin: *G. geographica* (Common Map Turtle), mussels; *G. p. pseudogeographica* (False Map Turtle), vegetation; and *G. p. ouachitensis* (Ouachita Map Turtle), mayfly nymphs. However, no published data exist on bait preferences of aquatic turtle species in Kansas, or of what type of bait is best for general community trapping.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We sampled semi-aquatic turtle communities in rivers, streams, and oxbows of southeast Kansas from April–November 1990, capturing 414 turtles at 82 localities in 19 counties. Sample sites were in the Marais des Cygnes (49), Neosho (22) and Verdigris (11) river drainages.

We used commercially available three-hoop turtle traps, 6 ft in length, 2.5 ft in diameter, with 1 inch nylon mesh. Two to six traps were set at each locality, and left for a period of two to four days, with a total of 103 successful bait trials. Bait was placed in a plastic film canister which

was punctured to allow small amounts of bait to slowly diffuse into the water. One canister was attached inside each net, which was then submerged under water. Seventeen different bait types were used: fresh mussel, canned creamed corn, canned sardines, fresh scallop, fresh shrimp, canned vegetable soup, canned smoked clams, canned yams, fresh grasshopper, fresh mulberries, fresh crayfish, canned butter beans, frozen chicken livers, fresh fish, canned tuna, peanut butter, and canned oysters. Bait type was noted for each turtle captured.

RESULTS

Four hundred fourteen turtles of nine species were collected in this study. They were, in order of decreasing abundance: *Trachemys scripta elegans* (Red-eared Slider), *Graptemys pseudogeographica ouachitensis* (Ouachita Map Turtle), *Chelydra s. serpentina* (Common Snapping Turtle), *Chrysemys picta bellii* (Western Painted Turtle), *Apalone spinifera hartwegi* (Western Spiny Softshell), *G. kohnii* (Mississippi Map Turtle), *Sternotherus odoratus* (Common Musk Turtle), *G. geographica* (Common Map Turtle), and *Pseudemys concinna metteri* (Missouri River Cooter).

Overall capture rate (no. turtles/trap) was 4.0 (Table 1). Baits which produced the greatest capture rate (1.8–4.4)

were fresh mussel, canned creamed corn, canned sardines, fresh shrimp, and fresh scallop (Table 1). Five baits resulted in one turtle per trap (Table 1); others failed to attract turtles.

Table 1. Capture rate of bait types for general turtle community trapping.

Bait type	Turtles captured	Number of bait trials	Capture rate
Fresh mussel	324	74	4.4
Canned creamed corn	65	15	4.3
Canned sardines	9	3	3.0
Fresh shrimp	4	2	2.0
Fresh scallop	7	4	1.8
Canned vegetable soup	1	1	1.0
Canned smoked clams	1	1	1.0
Canned yams	1	1	1.0
Fresh grasshopper	1	1	1.0
Fresh mulberries	1	1	1.0
Total	414	103	4.0

Species which preferred mussels were *T. s. elegans*, *G. p. ouachitensis*, *A. s. hartwegi*, *S. odoratus*, *G. geographica*, and *P. c. metterii* (Table 2). *G. kohnii* showed a preference for shrimp, with canned creamed corn being almost as successful. *C. p. bellii* exhibited the same capture rate for shrimp as for corn. *C. s. serpentina* preferred sardines, although it was also captured with scallops, canned creamed corn, and fresh mussel (Table 2).

DISCUSSION

The most successful baits included those which had a jelly-like fluid which slowly dispersed in the water. The two most successful baits were fresh mussel and canned creamed corn. The success of fresh mussel was expected since mussel was available at most trap sites as a native

food source. However, since canned creamed corn is not a natural food for turtles, its success was surprising. Turtles were probably attracted by the vegetable matter qualities of the corn. *P. c. metterii*, although herbivorous, was the only species not captured with this bait. Adults of this species were caught only with mussel. This was unexpected since a related species, *P. floridana*, was reported to eat meat only when young, changing its diet to plants as it grows older (Collins 1982). *T. s. elegans* was the only species captured with all five of the most successful baits. Though this species was captured most frequently with mussel, canned creamed corn was nearly as effective. Similarly, *S. odoratus* and *G. geographica* preferred mussel, but corn was also an effective bait for these species.

Ernst (1965) showed that *C. p. bellii* and *S. odoratus* in Ohio preferred sardines. However, in our study, *C. p. bellii* preferred canned creamed corn and shrimp, while *S. odoratus* preferred mussels. *C. s. serpentina* in Ohio preferred fowl entrails and fresh fish (Ernst, op. cit.), but our specimens were captured most commonly on canned sardines. Vogt (1981) found that *G. p. ouachitensis* preferred mayfly nymphs, while our specimens of this species were captured most frequently on mussel; however, mayfly nymphs were not offered as bait in this study. Our study did complement the finding of Vogt (op. cit.) for *G. geographica*, which preferred freshwater mussel, although this species was also caught with nearly equal frequency on canned creamed corn.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Joseph T. Collins, Marty Capron, and Jim Mayo for advice and Paul and Lenn Shipman for their assistance in the field. This research was conducted as part of a larger study on aquatic turtle communities funded by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, through its Nongame Wildlife Improvement Fund and by Emporia State University via a Faculty Research and Creativity Grant.

Table 2. Capture rate of species on the five most successful baits.

Species	Mussels	Corn	Sardines	Shrimp	Scallops
<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	1.72	1.67	1.33	0.50	1.00
<i>Graptemys p. ouachitensis</i>	1.19	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Chelydra s. serpentina</i>	0.32	0.53	1.33	0.00	0.00
<i>Chrysemys picta bellii</i>	0.26	1.00	0.33	1.00	0.00
<i>Apalone spinifera hartwegi</i>	0.39	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Graptemys kohnii</i>	0.18	0.47	0.00	0.50	0.00
<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	0.24	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Graptemys geographica</i>	0.09	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Pseudemys concinna metterii</i>	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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REVIEW

In the last issue of this Newsletter, you should have seen an announcement for a book exhibition called *Slithy Toves* at the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas. The exhibit consists of numerous volumes of rare books, all having an herpetological reference of one sort or another. Constructed by librarian Sally Haines, this exhibit was built to coincide with the publication of the third edition of the Peterson Field Guide *Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America* by Roger Conant and KHS member Joe Collins and is scheduled to run through September of this year.

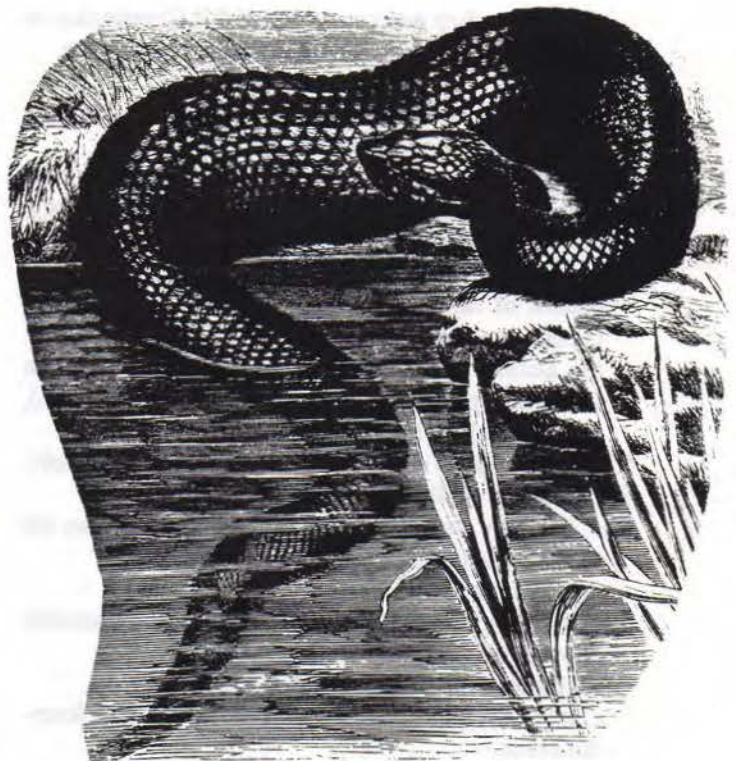
The exhibit consists of seven smaller exhibits in the main lobby of the library and two smaller exhibits at the end of the hall on the first floor of the building. The first exhibit consists of an introduction to field guides in North America, including an original volume of Holbrook's *North American Herpetology* and the aforementioned field guide. The second exhibit includes original materials from the making of this field guide (courtesy of J. T. Collins and Houghton Mifflin Company). The third case behind this case contains a copy of Seba's magnificent original opus. Four other cases on walls in the lobby contain volumes on a variety of themes from North American authors to authors prior to Linnaeus to authors after Linnaeus. Original volumes by such authors as Maximilian zu Wied, Palisot de Beauvois, Bartram, Daudin, Schlegel, Rüppel, J. E. Gray, and Tschudi are included in these cases. The hall cases include Agassiz, Linnaeus, Aristotle, Pliny the Elder, and others. All the books include informative labels on the individual author, the actual book, and include quotations by Lewis Carroll from his books *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass*, *The Hunting of the Snark*, and various poetry of his (hence the title *Slithy Toves*, a quote from *Through the Looking Glass*).

For anyone with an interest in original, rare herpetological literature, this exhibit is a must. In fact, even if you don't have such a bent, you owe it to yourself to take the time to drive up to KU and check this exhibit out. Much of the history of the origins of herpetology is included here and the plates (mostly hand-colored lithographs and even

some original copperplate) are spectacular in certain works. I was particularly struck by the Seba plates and a plate of the giant salamander *Andrias* in the Schlegel volume. A series of plates of *Chrysemys picta* in the Agassiz are magnificent. An original Bodmer (better known for his renderings of Eastern Plains Native Americans) in the Wied edition is not to be missed.

Sally Haines is to be highly commended for her efforts in putting this exhibit together. She has a marvelous eye for the unique and beautiful in these rare books and the presentation is coherent and meaningful. As stated, this exhibit will be on display until the end of September of this year. Spencer Research Library is located behind Strong Hall (the main administration building) on the University of Kansas campus. Set aside a little time from your schedules and immerse yourself in a wonderful, older, more sedate world of herpetology.

— Eric M Rundquist
Sedwick County Zoo & Botanical Garden
5555 Zoo Boulevard
Wichita, Kansas 67212



Cottonmouth

CONSTITUTION OF THE KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Article 1. Name

Section 1. The name of this organization is "Kansas Herpetological Society," hereafter referred to as the "Society."

Article II. Purpose

Section 1. To encourage education and dissemination of scientific information through the facilities of the Society.

Section 2. To encourage conservation of wildlife in general and of amphibians and reptiles in particular.

Section 3. To achieve closer cooperation and understanding between amateur and professional herpetologists, so that they may work together in the common cause of furthering science.

Article III. Bylaws

The Society shall establish bylaws concerning the organization and procedures to be followed.

Article IV. General Prohibition

Notwithstanding any provisions of this Constitution or the Bylaws which might be to contrary interpretation:

1. the Society shall be organized and operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes;
2. no part of the net earnings of the Society shall or may under any circumstances inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual;
3. no substantial part of the activities of the Society shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation;
4. the Society shall not participate in, or intervene in (including publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf for public office;
5. the Society shall not be organized or operated for profit;
6. the Society shall not:
 - a. lend any part of its income or corpus, without the receipt of adequate security and a reasonable rate of interest;
 - b. pay any compensation, in excess of a reasonable allowance for salaries or other compensation for personal services actually rendered;
 - c. make any part of its services available on a preferential basis;
 - d. make any purchase of securities or any other property for more than adequate consideration in money or money's worth from;

e. sell any securities or other property for less than adequate consideration in money or money's worth to; or

f. engage in any other transactions which result in a substantial diversion of its income or corpus to;

any officer, or substantial contributor to the organization.

The prohibitions contained in this subsection 6 do not mean to imply that the organization may make such loans, payments, or sales to or purchases from anyone else, unless such authority be given or implied by other provisions of this Constitution or Bylaws.

Article V. Distribution on Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Society, the Executive Council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all of the assets of the Society exclusively for the purposes of the Society in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Executive Council shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Society is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

BYLAWS

Article I. Members

Section 1. Membership shall be open to all persons who shall make formal application to the Secretary-Treasurer and pay the prescribed dues.

Section 2. The Officers of the Society shall have the right to refuse any new member or to terminate the membership of an existing member for cause and without prior notice. However, a terminated person may appeal to the general meeting of the Society.

Article II. The Officers

Section 1. The Officers of the Society shall be of two kinds, elective and appointive.

a. The elected officers shall be President, President-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and the Immediate Past-president.

b. The appointed officer shall be Editor of the Society Newsletter.

Section 2. No one individual may hold two or more elective offices concurrently.

Section 3. The terms of office for all officers of the Society shall be for one year.

Section 4. The duties of the elective officers shall be as follows:

a. The President shall preside at meetings of the Society and its officers; shall be nominal head of the Society; shall rule on questions of procedure that may arise; and shall appoint standing and ad hoc committees at his discretion.

b. The President-elect shall fulfill the duties of the President when the latter is absent, and shall succeed the President at the termination of the latter's term. He shall also assume the presidency should that office become vacant during a term.

c. The Secretary-Treasurer shall maintain the records of the Society and its officers; shall notify the membership of pertinent business; shall be responsible for all general correspondence of the Society; shall keep records and accounts of the Society including all monies received and disbursed; shall collect the annual dues and maintain the membership roster; and shall be responsible for all financial reports required by the business of the Society. The Secretary-Treasurer shall make a financial report to the membership at the general meeting.

An outside audit shall be conducted immediately prior to the elected Secretary-Treasurer's acceptance of the Society's financial records by a three member committee appointed by the Society's President.

d. The Immediate Past-president shall serve as a member of the officers of the Society.

Section 5. The duties of the Editor of the Society Newsletter shall be as follows:

He shall be responsible for all phases of its publication. He may appoint staff members to assist him. Inasmuch as the newsletter is the principal mechanism for written communication to the membership, the Editor is obligated to publish all communications of the Society and its Officers on first priority and to include, as space permits, other items consonant with the stated objectives of the Society. He shall report annually to the Officers to whom he is responsible.

Article III. The Executive Council of the Society

Section 1. The Executive Council of the Society shall consist of the President, President-elect, Secretary-

Treasurer, Immediate Past-president, and the Editor of the Society Newsletter.

Section 2. The Executive Council shall be empowered to manage the affairs of the Society and to designate all appointive officers for terms of one year.

Section 3. The Executive Council shall fill any vacancy occurring among officers, except that of President, by an appointment for the unexpired term.

Section 4. The Executive Council shall be specifically responsible for any publications of the Society and shall set such policy as is needed to coordinate the contents of the various media so as to further the stated objectives of the Society and to insure the availability and distribution of the several items.

Article IV. Elections of Officers

Section 1. The President shall appoint three members of the Society to serve as a nominating committee, to include not more than one member of the current Executive Council.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of at least one candidate for each office to be filled. The slate must be presented at the general meeting, at which time nominations may be made by the membership.

Section 3. The Nominating Committee, or a member of the Society proposing a nominee, shall obtain the assent of the candidate to serve if elected.

Section 4. The Slate of Nominations shall be circulated to the entire membership by the Secretary-Treasurer via the Newsletter not later than one month before the general meeting.

Section 5. Voting shall take place at the general meeting of the Society. The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive and count the votes. The results of the election shall be communicated to the membership via the Newsletter.

Section 6. The Secretary-Treasurer shall inform the elected candidates of their election. Newly elected persons will take office after the date of the general meeting of the election.

Article V. Meetings

Section 1. The Society shall hold a general meeting annually at a time and place set by the Executive Council of the Society. Not more than 18 months shall elapse between meetings.

Section 2. The membership shall be informed in writing of the time and place of the general meeting not later than two months prior to the opening of the meeting.

Section 3. The membership assembled at the general meeting shall elect the Society officers for the coming year.

Section 4. Special meetings may be called by vote of a majority of the Executive Council, or on a petition of a

quorum of the membership. The time and place of such special meetings must be announced to the membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 5. One-tenth of the membership will constitute a quorum to petition for a special meeting.

Section 6. All meetings shall be conducted under *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Article VI. Meetings of the Executive Council of the Society

Section 1. The Executive Council of the Society shall meet at least once a year on the occasion of the general meeting of the Society and at least once no later than one month before opening of the general meeting.

Section 2. Any meeting of the Executive Council shall be open to attendance by interested members of the Society as observers unless the Executive Council moves for Executive Session.

Section 3. A simple majority of the Executive council shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. A majority of those present and voting shall be necessary to pass any motion.

Section 5. The meeting shall be conducted according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 6. Special meetings of the Executive Council may be called by the President, or by a majority of same.

Article VII. Dues

Section 1. The Executive Council shall be authorized to establish such dues as are compatible with the financial status of the Society.

Section 2. Dues shall not exceed \$15.00 annually.

Section 3. A member in arrears for payment of dues for a period of six months after conclusion of the current membership year shall be dropped from the role after due notice from the Secretary-Treasurer.

Article VIII. Fiscal Year

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Society shall embrace the period of 1 January through 31 December of the same year.

Article IX. Amendment of the Bylaws

Section 1. Amendments may be proposed by the Executive Council or by petition to the Secretary by ten or more members of the Society.

Section 2. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer at least three months before the general meeting at which they are to be discussed.

Section 3. Such amendments shall be submitted in writing

by the Secretary-Treasurer to the general membership at least two months prior to the general meeting at which they are to be discussed.

Section 4. To be approved, an amendment must receive a positive vote by two-thirds of those voting at the general meeting.

Section 5. Any adopted amendment shall become an integral part of the Bylaws and the Secretary-treasurer shall be instructed to add them to copies of the Bylaws and to distribute the amended Bylaws to the members of the Executive Council of the Society and to other interested members of the Society.

Submitted by:

Ad Hoc Constitution Committee

Mary Dawson

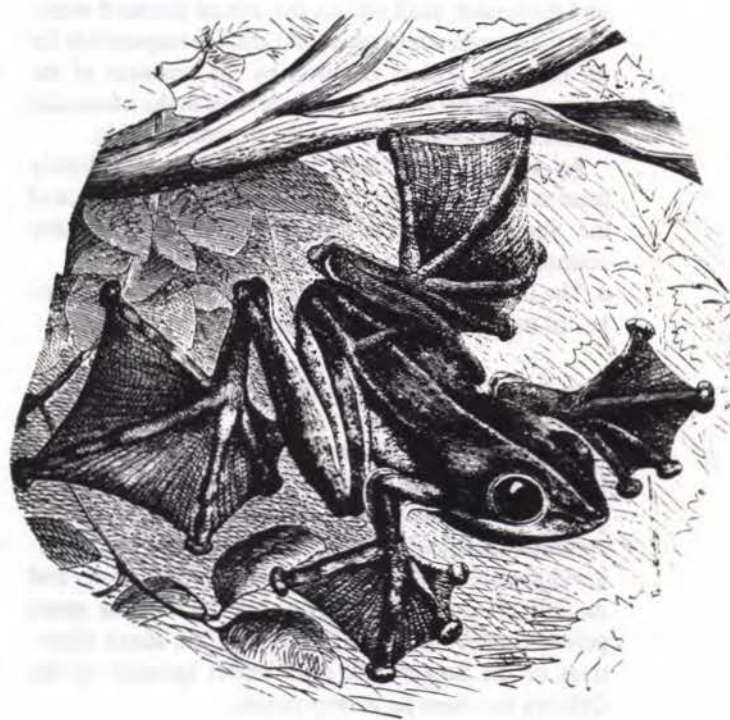
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Flying Frog

The University of Kansas Museum of Natural
History announces publication of

A CHECKLIST OF THE VERTEBRATE ANIMALS OF KANSAS

GEORGE D. POTTS & JOSEPH T. COLLINS

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Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

Prepublication Announcement

Herpetological Circular No. 20

AGE DETERMINATION IN TURTLES

by

George R. Zug

A complete and detailed look at techniques used to determine the age of turtles, as well as a comparison of their effectiveness. The first section deals with known-aged samples via mark-release-recapture, and captive rearing; the second section looks at measures of size as a substitute for age, using body length or mass, and lens mass; a third area of this booklet addresses incremental growth markers for age determination with respect to scute growth zones, claws and rhamphothecae, and skeletochronology; and a fourth part covers age estimation through structural modifications as revealed by scute polishing, skeletal changes, and coloration changes. Bibliography. 1991. 28 pages. ISBN 0-916984-24-9

Prepublication price \$4.00

After October 15, 1991 \$5.00

Orders may be sent to the Society Publications Secretary

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*"Outstanding photographs and text"—DARREL FROST,
Assistant Curator, American Museum of Natural History*

Kansas Wildlife

Text by Joseph T. Collins

Photographs by Bob Gress, Gerald J. Wiens, Suzanne L. Collins, and Joseph T. Collins

Foreword by John E. Hayes, Jr.

The variety will surprise you. Because of its central location, Kansas is a meeting ground for North American animals. Six hundred forty-six species of land animals—birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians—live in or pass through Kansas. Boreal animals from the colder northern climes traverse the state on their way south; western creatures migrate east from the Rockies or reside in our arid grasslands; southern wildlife pushes north into Kansas on its way back from winter quarters or settles permanently in our Red Hills; and eastern species invade our deciduous forests.

In *Kansas Wildlife* four of the state's best wildlife photographers combine 130 photographs to create a colorful sampler of the state's biodiversity—from delicate Cricket Frogs to ponderous Bison, from stately Great Blue Herons to madcap Chickadees, from cautious Ornate Box Turtles to high-strung Prairie Rattlesnakes.

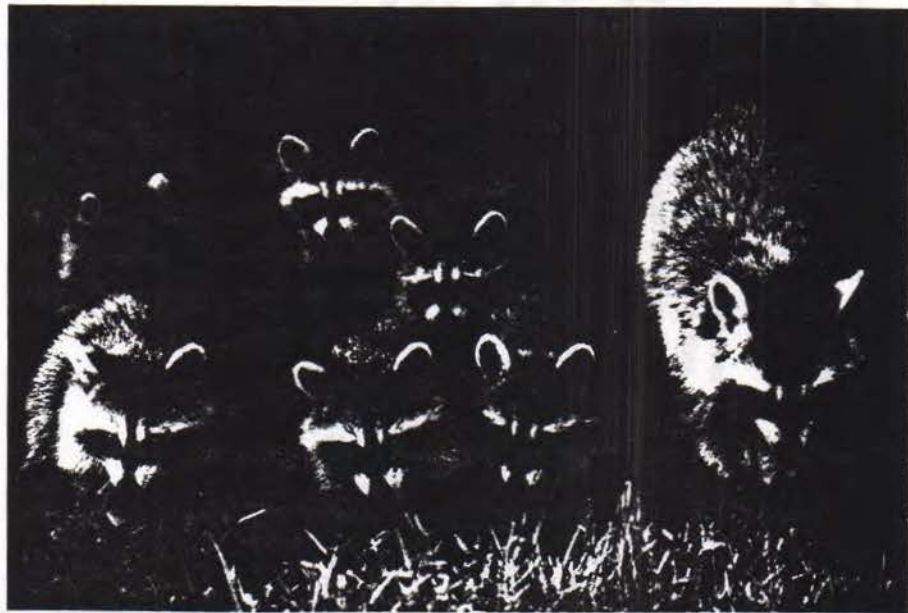
Naturalist Joe Collins provides detailed figure captions full of little-known information about the habits and habitats of Kansas creatures. Did you know, for example, that the Eastern Yellowbelly Racer, a fast and aggressive snake, sometimes follows people who enter its territory during the spring courting season? Have you heard the high-pitched howl of the Northern Grasshopper Mouse, a predatory mouse that occasionally stands on its hind feet and howls like a miniature wolf? Did you know that hummingbirds, the only birds that can fly backwards, must refuel every ten to fifteen minutes? Did you realize, in your wildest dreams, that there are often 750 Prairie Ringneck Snakes to the acre?

"Look for these animals the next time you stroll the natural places of Kansas," Collins writes. "I think the variety will surprise you as much as it surprised me on my first Kansas snake hunt twenty years ago, and still does today."

Bob Gress, Gerald Wiens, and Suzanne Collins are Kansas wildlife photographers whose work has appeared in regional and national magazines such as *National Wildlife*, *Kansas Wildlife*, *Sports Afield*, and *Natural History*. Editor Joseph T. Collins, also a widely published photographer, is author of the *Peterson Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America*, *Reptiles and Amphibians of Kansas*, and *Natural Kansas*.

Publication of *Kansas Wildlife* has been made possible in part by a grant from KPL Gas Service.

October
128 pages, 8-1/2 x 11
130 full-color photographs
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The Compleat Cladist: A Primer of Phylogenetic Procedures

by E. O. Wiley, D. Siegel-Causey, D. R. Brooks, and V. A. Funk

This workbook is intended to teach the basics of phylogenetic inference, and is written for those who wish to become more familiar with the rapidly developing field of phylogenetic systematics. Each topic is explained and examples of each procedure are provided. The reader is then provided with exercises and quizzes designed to reinforce the learning process. While attention is paid to how current computer programs analyze data, the exercises are designed to be analyzed by hand.

Wiley is Curator of Ichthyology at the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, where Siegel-Causey is an Adjunct Curator of Ornithology; Brooks is Professor of Zoology at the University of Toronto; and Funk is Curator of Botany at the U. S. National Museum.

Topics covered by this workbook include:

- an introduction to terms and concepts
- basic procedures for reconstructing common ancestry relationships
- outgroup comparison and character polarity
- character coding
- Hennig and Wagner tree building
- character optimization (ACCTRAN and DELTRAN)
- summary indices and tree comparisons
- consensus trees
- phylogenetic classifications
- methods for coevolutionary studies

x + 158 pp. 122 figures, 60 tables. \$14.95 (paper). ISBN 0-89338-035-0. University of Kansas Museum of Natural History Special Publication No. 19. Available Fall 1991.

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THE KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Kansas Herpetological Society is a non-profit organization established in 1974 and designed to encourage education and dissemination of scientific information through the facilities of the Society; to encourage conservation of wildlife in general and of amphibians and reptiles in Kansas in particular, and to achieve closer cooperation and understanding between herpetologists, so that they may work together in common cause.

Membership

All interested persons are invited to become members in the Society. Membership dues per calendar year are \$8.00 (U.S., Regular), \$15.00 (**outside** North America, Regular), and \$15.00 (Contributing) payable to KHS and send to: Secretary-Treasurer, 1112 Rural Street, Emporia, Kansas 66801.

All members are entitled to participate in Society functions and have voting privileges. They receive copies of Society publications, which include **KHS Newsletters**, as well as other publications of interest or those co-sponsored by the Society.

Editorial Policy

The **Kansas Herpetological Society Newsletter**, issued quarterly, publishes manuscripts and notes of interest dealing with the biology of amphibians and reptiles. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor no later than the first of the month of issuance. All manuscripts should be typed, become the sole possession of the Society, and will not be returned unless special arrangements are made with the Editor.

Pen and ink illustrations and photographs are also welcomed. These should be sized accordingly, because no reductions can be made. Illustrations and photographs will be returned to the owner only upon request.

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