

KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 99

FEBRUARY 1995

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GALAPAGOS CRISIS: SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL AND ENDANGERED ANIMALS HELD HOSTAGE

CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION AND GALAPAGOS NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HELD HOSTAGE BY ARMED FISHERMAN

Ed.note: The following is a news alert from Conservation Network International, 31 January, 1995

Masked fisherman (calling themselves Pepineros/or sea cucumber collectors) armed with clubs and machetes, seized control of the properties of the Charles Darwin Research Station and Galapagos National Park Service boat, on Tuesday, January 3, 1995, in the community of Puerto Ayora, Galapagos. The launch for the CDRS was sunk and access to/from the airport was cut off by the vindictive pepineros. The seizure lasted three days. CDRS and Park personnel were confined to buildings. Those who live within the Park and Station campuses were rarely allowed to leave. In effect the two institutions, their staffs, the facilities and the breeding groups of giant tortoises and land iguanas were held hostage in a World Heritage Site. Apart from a broken arm and an unexploded bomb in a Park Service, the level of violence has not yet attracted the attention of the international press. However, those who realize what is at stake recognize that if the Ecuadorian government continues to submit to the black market demands of these fisherman, the world will lose the largest virgin island (Fernandina) in the world, as well as the last significant population of Hammerhead sharks.

In recent months, Conservation Network International (CNI) has confirmed:

- \$1 billion Sucres (~\$40 million US) were transferred thru the two Galapagos banks. One fisherman cashed a US\$ 50,000 check.

- Uncontrolled fishing boats are harvesting everything marketable from the sea floor. The fisherman continue to cut mangroves for fuel to boil their catch and there are floating brothels for entertainment.

- Fishing boats carrying chickens, dogs, and inevitably rats and mice are pillaging the coasts of western Isabela and Fernandina Islands.

- An "experimental" sea cucumber fishery and a shark fishing industry were endorsed by the government on June 23, 1994. A limit of 550,000 sea cucumbers was set by the

authorities. No means of regulation was established and an estimated 6 - 10 million were taken before the government finally tried to stop the "experiment".

- The reason for the violence and hostage situation is that the fisherman are demanding the reopening of the sea cucumber fishery.

The crisis has now entered a dramatic level of exploitation while the current border dispute between Peru and Ecuador is attracting attention away from the crisis in the Galapagos. Due to the political and socio-economic pressure, The Darwin Foundation has been unable to forcefully denounce and combat the environmental travesty that has developed. Conservation Network International, Inc. was formed as a non-profit organization in July, 1994, to oppose a series of commercial fisheries in the Galapagos.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Write a letter to the President of Ecuador

Pres. Sixto Duran Ballen
Garcia Moreno 1043
Quito, Ecuador

With copies to:

Lic. Armando Espinel
Ministerio de Informacion y Turismo
Quito, Ecuador

Ab. Gustavo Gonzales
Subsecretario de Pesca
Guayaquil, Ecuador

Lic. Jorge Barba
Director INEFAN
Quito, Ecuador

Sr. Director
Diario EL COMERCIO
Quito, Ecuador

Sr. Director
Diario EL UNIVERSO
Guayaquil, Ecuador

Lic. Arturo Izurieta Valery

Intendente del Servicio Parque Nacional Galapagos
Puerto Ayora
Islas Galapagos
Ecuador

2. Call your travel agent and any journalists who might be interested in this issue and feel free to refer them to Conservation Network International.

3. Support the efforts of Conservation Network International to expand our publicity campaign and stop the exportation of shark fins and sea cucumbers from the Galapagos. Conservation Network International will continue to support the local Galapagos naturalists who are now risking their lives to stop the exploitation. CNI has no employees and all contributions are invested directly for the cause. Our intentions are to stop the exploitation of all marine resources from the Galapagos and do what ever is necessary to insure the long term preservation of this world heritage site and the last significant population of Hammerhead sharks.

Conservation Network International, Inc.
Jack Grove, President
146 N. Sunrise Drive
Tavernier, Florida 33070
Tel/Fax 305-852-6004

INFORMATION REQUESTED

Lewis Anderson, a graduate student at Pittsburg State University, is conducting a survey of anurans in southeast Kansas. Specifically, he will be looking at land use and the biodiversity of anurans in selected breeding sites. He is in need of the following information on the taxa listed below.

1. Egg identification; keys, drawings, or photos
2. Travel ranges from non-breeding habitats to breeding habitats
3. Any *outstanding* life history/ecological studies

Taxa Being Studied

Blanchard's Cricket Frog (*Acris crepitans blanchardi*), Eastern American Toad (*Bufo a. americanus*), Dwarf American Toad (*B. a. charlesmithi*), Fowler's Toad (*B. woodhousii fowleri*), Woodhouse's Toad (*B. w. woodhousii*), Eastern Narrowmouth Toad (*Gastrophryne carolinensis*), Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad (*G. olivacea*), Cope's Gray Treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*), Eastern Gray Treefrog (*H. versicolor*), Northern Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris c. crucifer*), Western Chorus Frog (*P. t. triseriata*), Northern Crawfish Frog (*Rana areolata circulosa*), Plains Leopard Frog (*R. blairi*), Bullfrog (*R. catesbiana*), Green Frog (*R. c. clamitans*), Pickerel Frog (*R. palustris*), Southern Leopard Frog (*R. u. utricularia*), and Hurter's Spadefoot

(*Scaphiopus holbrookii hurterii*)

Anyone having the requested information should contact Mr. Anderson at Dept. of Biology, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 or call (316)235-4729.

NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

There is a new quarterly herp publication on the market, *Amphibian and Reptile Conservation*. This publication purports to cover all aspects of herp conservation and the initial list of articles and authors is impressive. Indeed, KHS' very own David and Allison Reber will have a paper on rattlesnake roundups in the first issue. Price is \$18.00 per year. If you are interested in subscribing, write to: AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CONSERVATION (ARC), 2255 North University Parkway, Suite 15, Provo, Utah 84604-7506. Other ways of inquiring are: Voice Mail: (801) 379-8900, Fax: (801) 373-0695, or Email: ARC@yvox.byu.edu.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT IN TROUBLE

ED. NOTE: The following was received as an e-mail message from the Internet. Please try to respond to this alert.

ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION ACTION ALERT

PLEASE RESPOND IMMEDIATELY WITH A GREAT DEAL OF VIGOR!!!

The new anti-environmental leadership of the 104th Congress may take a blatant back-door approach to gutting the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It has been no secret that House Resources Committee Chair, Don Young (R-AK), want to gut the ESA. Now it appears that The House Interior Appropriations subcommittee will recommend that funding for the US Fish & Wildlife Service-EDS endangered species program be eliminated as part of a rescission package. [This process involves reviewing the already approved 1995 fiscal year budget to identify funds that have not yet been spent and could be withheld when appropriators come up with their first package cuts in the next 60 days.]

This rescission bill may be introduced as early as the next two weeks. Although details are not final, the bill is likely to mirror part of a newly introduced Senate bill by Kay Bailey Hutchison, (R-TX), that would eliminate all funding for critical habitat or new species listings until the ESA is reauthorized.

Your help is needed to make sure that Interior Appro-

priations Subcommittee members know that this attempt to steal dollars from endangered species will not be tolerated. In fact, your elected representative needs to know that any attack on the ESA will be very costly to any re-election attempt.

BACKGROUND

According to the Congressional Quarterly, Don Young, (R-AK), will not allow any more funding of the Endangered Species Act unless he can force through major changes in its regulatory reach. House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Ralph Regula, (R-OH), says that there is no general strategy by the Republican leadership to bar funding for programs with expired authorizations [like the ESA, whose authorization ran out in 1992]. Regula did confirm that Young could block funding for the ESA, however.

In a recent interview, Young stated the following about ESA reauthorizing; "...Number one will be a revision of the Endangered Species Act Intent will be explained again and put into law what the Endangered Species Act was meant to be. That will be done. We hope to have that done within six months."

TALKING POINTS

—funding for conservation programs within the Department of Interior-EDS budget accounts for only 0.193% of the total federal budget.

—The federal government would spend less than \$60 million on endangered species in 1995. This is less than 25 cents per US citizen per year.

—The amount spent on all endangered species programs per year is equal to about 1 mile of new urban interstate highway.

—Elimination of below cost timber sales in National Forests would save more than \$200 million per year.

—Elimination of the Forest Road programs from the 1995 Interior budget would save nearly \$100 million.

—Slashing a few bucks from the Interior budget now from endangered species protection will cost the American public far more 10 years down the road.

Call or fax your Member on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. If your Member is not on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, make sure a friend or colleague who is in one of the following congressional districts makes a call.

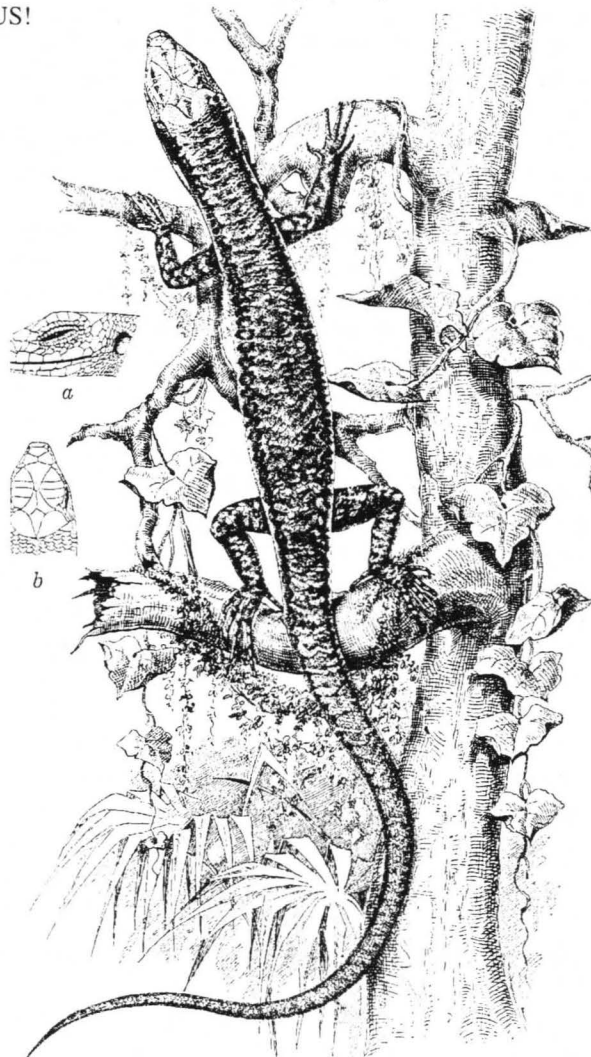
Interior Appropriations Committee:
Regula, Ralph; Chair
Yates, Sidney; Ranking minority leader

	phone	fax
Regula, Ralph OH (R-16)	202-225-3876	202-225-3059
McDade, Joseph M. PA (R-10)	202-225-3731	202-225-9594
Kolbe, Jim AZ (R-05)	202-225-2542	202-225-0378
Skeen, Joseph NM (R-02)	202-225-2365	202-225-9599
Vucanovich, Barbara NV (R-02)	202-225-6155	202-225-2319
Taylor, Charles Hart NC (R-11)	202-225-6401	202-250794
Nethercutt, George WA (R-05)	202-225-2006	202-225-7181
Bunn, Jim OR (R-05)	202-225-5711	

Democrats

Yates, Sidney R. IL (D-09)	202-225-2111	202-225-3493
Dicks, Norman D. WA (D-06)	202-225-5916	202-226-1176
Bevill, Thomas AL (D-04)	202-225-4876	202-225-0842
Skaggs, David E. CO (D-02)	202-225-2161	202-225-9127

Remember: The Endangered Species Act Protects US!



KHS BUSINESS

THINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The KHS executive council met in January to discuss several issues. Chief among these being education and publicity efforts. It was decided that KHS produce a brochure providing some information about the society, society functions, and membership. The brochure will be distributed state-wide at nature centers, museums, park offices, and so forth, as well as being available for individuals to distribute appropriately. In addition, KHS will be sending out news releases about all meetings and field trips. Finally, KHS will submit short articles of interest to other relevant state-level publications, as well as making efforts to provide materials in the Newsletter aimed at less experienced audiences. Don't panic yet - the content of the Newsletter won't be drastically changed. It's just that if we are making an effort to attract new members, we also need to make an effort to provide articles of interest to them. The tentative plan is to add a "species profile" type column (about a page or two in length) to the newsletter in order to help neophytes become more familiar with Kansas' herpetofauna. Anyone who is interested in assisting with publicity efforts, please stay interested as the details of these projects are soon to unfold. More in the next newsletter.

Also on the meeting agenda were issues of conservation. I have appointed Alison Smith Reber as Conservation Committee Chairperson, and she will be coordinating KHS group efforts. Our main concern continues to be the issue of rattlesnake roundups, but if anyone is aware of other situations in which Kansas herps are getting the short end of the stick, please let Alison know about it. Since the last election, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has a new Secretary, John Strickler. Right now, before you forget, please write him a letter and let him know how you feel about rattlesnake roundups. His address is KDWP Office of the Secretary, 900 SW Jackson St. Suite 502, Topeka, KS 66612. (While you're writing, you might also drop a note to our new Governor).

Finally, I would like to say that I look forward to serving as KHS president in 1995. Remember, I and the other KHS officers are not here to do unto you, but rather to do for you. Feel free to contact any of us with your suggestions, questions and concerns.

— David Reber.

REQUEST FOR ARTICLES FOR 100TH EDITION

As some of you are aware, the next issue of the KHS Newsletter will be its 100th (it doesn't seem possible). In

commemoration of this event, I am planning a special, expanded edition of the Newsletter. I have already commissioned a couple of papers and there is a possibility of reprinting some of the more significant papers that have appeared in this publication. At this time, I am inviting any and all members to submit to me your important, unpublished papers on Kansas herpetology or other meaningful research (the former is preferred). If any of you have had a paper sitting in your files that you have been meaning to publish but just haven't gotten around to submitting yet, I urge you to do so now. Let's make this issue of the Newsletter the best yet!

— EMR

HERP COUNTS

Yes, folks, it's getting to be that time again, time for the annual KHS Herp Counts. As always, the count period is 1 April-31 May. Although last year was a good one for counts (we now have one of the most significant databases on native herps of any state in the country), let's try to improve on last year's record. If you haven't submitted a count before, please try to do so this year. Remember: *anyone* can do a count and it's a great way to spend a day or a week. All areas of the state are eligible and there are many counties for which we have no counts. In addition, road counts are also valid (for those who travel a lot but don't have enough time to get out and flip rocks and stomp swamps). In addition, if you have done a count in the past but haven't returned to the original survey site for some time, try to get back to those areas and do a survey. Repeated surveys of selected sites will give us the best indication of the status of herp populations and are the most important counts you can do. Follow the format of previously published counts and beside the actual animal count, try to include as much data on the following as possible: air temperature, ground temperature, water temperature, water and ground pH, wind conditions, sky conditions, and any other data you feel is important. Submit count results to me at the address listed on the inside front cover.

— EMR

SPRING FIELD TRIP

The annual KHS Spring Field Trip will be held 28-30 April 1995 at Osage County State Fishing Lake, just south of Carbondale on the east side of Highway 75. KHS

members participating and wishing to camp may arrive on Friday the 28th. Signs will be up after 6 P.M. that evening.

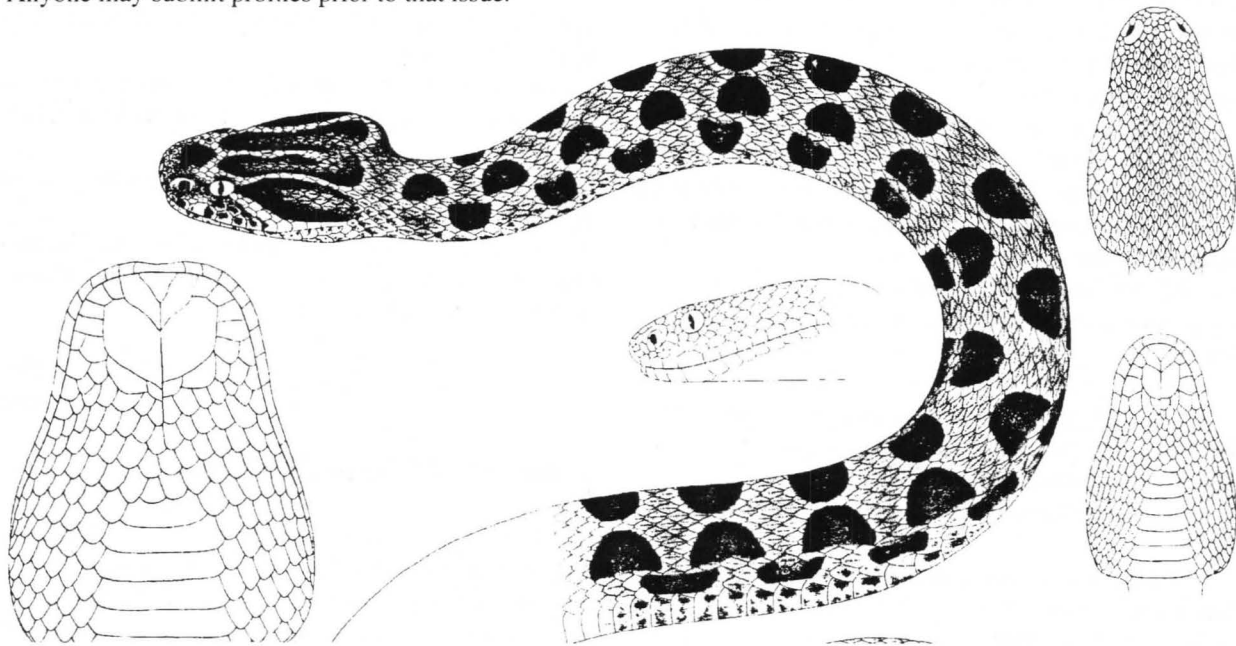
Those participating in the Shawnee, Osage, and Douglas County herp counts on Saturday should be at the campsite by 9 A.M. Both private and public lands will be available for the counts. Details will be announced Saturday morning.

Several special excursions are being considered for Saturday evening and Sunday morning. KHS members are encouraged to attend and bring friends for an enjoyable weekend of camping, story telling, and herping. Motels are available in Topeka (about 18 miles north of the lake) for those who do not wish to camp. CB channel 4 will be monitored for those with CB radios.

For more information contact Larry L. Miller, KHS Program Chairman, 840 SW 97th St., Wakarusa, Kansas 66546, phone (913)836-2119.

NEW FEATURE FOR NEWSLETTER

The KHS Executive Council has decided to offer a new feature for the KHS Newsletter. Beginning with the next issue, we will begin running species profiles for selected Kansas herps. Although the format is not strictly defined at this point, we are asking members to submit short (one-two pages) articles that feature your favorite (or unfavorite, for that matter) state herp. These profiles should include range and natural history information and selected personal experiences with the species selected. Watch in the next edition for format style and content information. Anyone may submit profiles prior to that issue.



KHS BRINGS YOU GREAT NEWS OF THE WORLD

JUDGE ORDERS WOMAN TO REMOVE REPTILES

A Jackson County judge ruled Tuesday that 34 caimans and one alligator must leave a Kansas City home.

Circuit Judge Gene R. Martin ruled in favor of the city, which had issued an order for removal of the animals.

For nearly 30 years, Pat Nichols has bred, raised and studied caimans in her home at 4938 Euclid Ave. But last August, animal control supervisor Janice Gordon ordered the animals out of Kansas City after deciding they were inherently dangerous.

Jacobs, 65, had said earlier that she would sell her house and the house she owns next door if she lost her lawsuit. But she said after hearing the judge's decision that she cannot afford to move.

"I had to sell my car and borrow money for this (lawsuit)," Jacobs said. "every penny I've ever made has gone to make this house suitable for these animals. They're trying to take everything I have. Somebody has to come forward and help."

The city does not intend to enforce its earlier demand to remove the caimans within 48 hours, said Assistant City Attorney Walter O'Toole.

"Obviously, they can't be out (that soon)," he said. "We're going to try to work with them."

Jacobs said she planned to appeal Martin's decision.

"This is wrong," she said. "There's never been a caiman incident in Kansas City, and all of a sudden for no reason (Gordon) declares war on all caimans. We had a child killed by Rottweilers in this area, but we didn't outlaw all Rottweilers."

Jacobs sometimes found it difficult to control her feelings during the court hearing.

Her attorney, Michelle Wallace, gently tugged on Jacobs' waistlength, gray ponytail several times to cut short an outburst.

When O'Toole questioned her, Jacobs grew increasingly fervent, and frequently interrupted him, Wallace, and Martin.

"There's nothing here to worry about," she insisted. "They have no inclination on God's Earth to climb out of their area. These are delicate, precious, priceless animals that pay no attention to people whatsoever.

"no human being could take better care of them than I do."

The hearing ... was scheduled to decide whether Gordon made a reasonable decision when she deemed the animals inherently dangerous.

During the winter, the animals, which are South Ameri-

can relatives of crocodiles, live inside Jacob's home. In the summer, they move into the back yard, along with eight macaws, a 34-year-old parrot, six chickens, two geese, and about 31 white rats.

No one complained for 28 years, Jacobs said.

But after a television news report in August featured the animals, animal control agents received several complaints, Gordon testified. As acting supervisor at the time, she spoke with zoo officials, veterinarians, and herpetology experts before deciding the caimans were a threat to public safety. She gave Jacobs 48 hours to get rid of them, as provided in city ordinances, Gordon said.

Instead of moving the caimans, Jacobs sought a restraining order and sued the city. She also received a variance from the city that grants her zoning for the wildlife refuge and research facility.

At the hearing, witnesses for Jacobs testified that the caimans had never tried to harm schoolchildren or other visitors to the home. Two teachers said they frequently take their students to the home, known as Parrot Hill Crocodile Farm.

"The children call them big pet rocks," said DeEtta Hamilton.

Ann Martin-Gonnerman, president of the National Society for the Protection of Animals, which has started a fund to help Jacobs, testified that her 1981 inspection with zoo and city officials revealed acceptable conditions at Jacob's facility.

And caiman experts from Florida and South Carolina backed Jacob's contention that caimans are much more passive than crocodiles.

But three reptile experts for the defense disagreed. Wild animals, including caimans, are unpredictable, they said.

The fight has not been easy for either side, O'Toole said.

"It's a tough situation, I certainly admit that," he said. "But it's also a dangerous situation, and we have a responsibility to do something about it."

—Kansas City Star, 8 February 1995
(submitted by C. Rafinsky, Peru)

SIGNIFICANT ZOO BREEDINGS

Two Home's Hingeback Tortoises (*Kinixys homeana*) hatched from a clutch of four eggs on 17 September 1994 at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, after a four-month incubation period. Two eggs were infertile. The adults were originally obtained from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

confiscation in 1988, and this is the first hatching of this species at the zoo. Hingeback tortoises are listed on CITES as Appendix II. This African forest dweller is threatened by habitat destruction, as well as commercial collecting

Eighteen Solomon Islands Leaf Frogs (*Ceratobatrachus guentheri*) hatched during October 1994 at the Detroit Zoological Park. This represents the first breeding of this species at the zoo and the fourth U.S. institution known to have reproduced this taxon. The young hatched on exhibit, which contains 3.2 adult Leaf Frogs and 1.2 Solomon Islands Prehensiletail Skinks (*Corucia zebrata*). This species forgoes the typical aquatic tadpole stage and hatches directly into small froglets.

5.1 Rosenberg's Treefrogs (*Hyla rosenbergi*) produced a clutch of approximately 1000 eggs on 16 August 1994 [at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo]. The eggs were fertile and began hatching two days later. Seventy-five tadpoles were saved and maintained at 23-26°C. The first tadpole completed metamorphosis on 12 October. To date, 24 froglets have emerged, of which seven have absorbed their tails and are eating small insects. Three additional fertile clutches have since been produced at 4-5 week intervals. This is also believed to be the first captive breeding of this species in the U.S.

The Honolulu Zoo successfully hatched its first Radiated Tortoise (*Geochelone radiata*) on 25 October 1994. Both parents are founder stock. The mother has been at the zoo since 1970, and the father was acquired on loan from the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust in November 1992. The female produced no eggs between 1970 and 1992. In August 1993, one month after being introduced to the male, she laid her first clutch. The recent hatchling was incubated for 97 days. This is the second successful hatching of an endangered Madagascan tortoise. A rare Angonoka (*G. yniphora*) was successfully hatched in September 1983.

— AZA Communiqué, January 1995
(submitted by Ruth Gennrich, Lawrence)

JUST DESSERTS

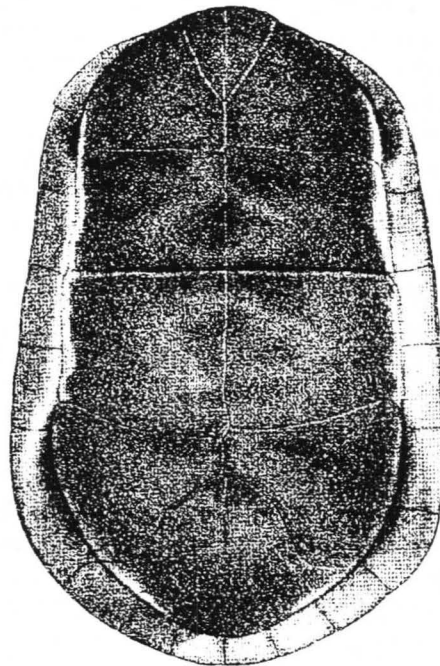
A man walked into a Houston pet store and tried to sell owner Shawn Cochran two rattlesnakes. When Cochran explained that city law banned the store from selling [venomous] reptiles, the man grabbed seven pythons, ran to his pickup truck, and sped off. Cochran gave chase and collided with the thief, who was bitten by one of the rattlesnakes when his truck rolled over.

— The New Times, 8-14 February 1995
(submitted by R. Black, Lawrence)

WOMAN SMUGGLES 65 SNAKES IN BRA

Alert customs officers noticed something weird" about a woman's bosom. On further investigation, they found 65 baby grass snakes in her bra. The national news agency TT reported that the 42-year-old woman told the officers she intended to start a reptile farm.

— publication and date unknown
(submitted by George Pisani, Lawrence)



FEATURE ARTICLES

GUEST EDITORIAL: Where is KHS Going? A Discussion On The Future Of The Kansas Herpetological Society

Daren Riedle
Division of Biological Sciences
Box 4050
Emporia State University
Emporia, KS 66801

During the 21st annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society, in Wichita, Kansas, a discussion was held concerning the direction KHS should take in the future. Many excellent ideas were exchanged, and I would like to share some of them for the benefit of those who were not there. Most of the ideas dealt with the task of making more people aware of the existence of KHS, and making KHS more attractive to those potential members. Also, since we are a conservation-oriented society, we discussed the activities we are doing now, and possible activities for the future. As I run down the list of ideas that were exchanged during this discussion, please keep in mind that I did not cover all the items we talked about, so please inform me of any ideas that you would like to add.

ACTIVITIES

The Society's annual field trips and herp counts are excellent activities and have allowed us to collect valuable information on our state's herpetofauna. Unfortunately, these field trips and our annual meeting are the only times the society meets. Maybe we should also look at including other projects along with our usual annual events. Possibilities include volunteering to set up booths at events like fairs and outdoor shows. A suggestion was made that we help other groups and during their annual events; a good example is volunteering our time to help with some of the Sedgwick County Zoo's public service activities.

A question was then asked, how do we inform our members of these activities? David and Alison Reber started a list of phone numbers of members who would like to be contacted to help at these events. If you would like to be on that list please contact David and Alison to let them know. One of the best solutions to this problem is a yearly activity calendar. This would let members know in advance what activities we have planned and allow them to work it into their schedules.

MEETINGS

The Kansas Herpetological Society has a membership of >200 persons, and any society with a membership that large will also have diverse interests. Those interests are clearly evident in the variety of papers given at our meetings. We should continue to strive for this diversity, and cater our meetings towards that goal. Maybe we should try to have separate paper sessions. Although one person may be interested in listening to a paper on the copulatory behavior of ringneck snakes, they may not be interested in a discussion on herp-related conservation laws. We could have three paper sessions, two on Saturday and one on Sunday. One session could be set aside for technical papers, one for discussions, and a general session for people who just want to talk about some of the herpetological experiences they have had over the last year.

One thing I have noticed at past meetings is the presence of young people. I feel that we should make the meeting as positive for them as possible, for they are the future of the Society. What if we had some kind of activity for the kids during part of the meeting? A good time for this might be during the business meeting when children are most likely to become bored. There could be an educational program on the ecological value of amphibians and reptiles, and maybe give the children a chance to hold some of these different animals.

We also have several high school and junior high school students pursuing their interest herpetology, and those students should be recognized. The Gloyd/Taylor Award is set aside for any student, regardless of age, doing work in Kansas herpetology. But, how is a high school student going to compete with a Ph.D. candidate? Why not have two awards? Let's set the current award and scholarship money aside for college students, and create a new award for younger students. This award could be money or

a certificate and a herpetology-related book. Regardless, these younger students should be recognized.

PUBLICITY

As we discuss possible ways to improve the Society, we should remember we would not have a society without members, and for the Society to continue to exist we must recruit new members. One of the simplest things we could do would be to make up brochures and fliers telling about the Society. These could be sent to colleges, universities, high schools, and junior high schools. I was not aware of the existence of KHS until I was a freshman in college, when a friend showed me a copy of a KHS newsletter. I would have joined sooner had I known about KHS.

When colleges and the armed forces recruit, they send brochures, and on these brochures are a few photographs and some basic information about that group. This could be a possibility for KHS. A small two-sided pamphlet, maybe with a picture or two from one of our field trips, and some information about our society could be eye-catching, and bring in new members.

Various members in the Society talk to different private groups and schools occasionally, and this provides the perfect opportunity to plug KHS. When I talk to schools, I try to inform them about the various herp field guides and also let them know we exist. If we have fliers or brochures, we could leave a few at the school, and hopefully we will have turned a few students into prospective herpetologists.

Another place to advertise our society is in newspapers and magazines. A lot a newspapers accept small natural history articles, that the general public seems to enjoy. It would not be that hard to submit a weekly or monthly article about a certain amphibian or reptile species, and again plug KHS while doing so. Advertising in Kansas Department of Wildlife and Park's magazines like *Kansas Wildlife and Parks* or *On Tracks*, a publication sent to teachers and naturalists, would reach a conservation-minded audience and of course, let people know KHS exists.

A comment was made by an individual who has been a member of the Society for a couple of years now, that it took awhile for him to get to know who was who in the organization. He then put forth the suggestion of a welcoming package for new members, letting them know about how the Society works, when and where we meet, and possibly a small biography of society officers. We could also introduce the officers at the beginning of the meeting, and also during the business meeting. Not all members can make it to the meetings consistently so possibly we could run a small profile on one or two of the members in each newsletter. This would let members know who is who and what they are doing. Also, making sure everybody has name tags at the meetings would be a big help.

Accomplishing these tasks will require considerable

time and effort. Instead of piling all of these responsibilities onto one person, what I suggest is to have a committee made up of two or three people. They then could share the responsibilities of planning events, and working on various publicity projects.

The Kansas Herpetological Society is a very progressive and active conservation-minded society, and I would hate for it to gradually fade away with time. Unfortunately, this could be a possibility, unless we continue to improve, and let more people know WE ARE OUT THERE!!

REPORT TO THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS: HERPS ENCOUNTERED DURING R-EMAP PROJECT, SUMMER 1994

Lewis Anderson, Mark Shaw, Jeff Blodig, and Tom Walker
Department of Biology
Pittsburg State University
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762

INTRODUCTION

From 1 June 1994 to 22 September 1994, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), in conjunction with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sampled 50 aquatic sites throughout the state of Kansas (Tables 1 & 2). Rivers and streams comprised 48 of the sites and two sites were lakes. This sampling was the first stage of a multi-year project entitled *Measuring the Health of the Fisheries in EPA Region VII: Region VII (R-EMAP) Study*.

Extensive environmental data was collected at each site, such as water temperature, pH, flow, conductivity, and turbidity. Sediment and water samples were collected at each site and shipped to the EPA laboratory to be tested for selected pesticides and heavy metals. Fish were seined and/or electroshocked and identified at each site. Several fish from each site were shipped to the EPA laboratory to be tested for pesticides and heavy metals in their tissues. Aquatic macroinvertebrates were also collected at each site and shipped to the EPA for identification.

Extensive physical measurements were taken at each site in and next to the river. These included substrate type, extent of sedimentation, depth, sinuosity, width, slope, and riparian vegetation.

Although not listed as an objective of this study, we felt that since we would invariably be encountering reptiles and amphibians during the course of the sampling, that we might as well identify, count, and list them. We felt that it would not take time away from performing the tasks of the project and that this information would be an interesting, useful and valuable supplement to the project at no additional cost.

The fact that an extensive laboratory analysis was going to be performed on the water, sediment, and fish tissues made it even more inviting to see what types of herps were living in and beside rivers and streams. It should be kept in mind that this herp count was qualitative. When looking at the list of herps and comparing them to the

corresponding water quality data, one should note the following. The best approach to this data is to view each herp list and environmental data as a snapshot in time; on this day, in this creek, these animals were living in these environmental conditions.

METHODS

Each site was between 150-300 m in length. We counted whatever herps we encountered in the water and in the riparian area next to the creeks. We also counted any herps found while walking in the same area, such as when carrying equipment from trucks to the sample area.

Tadpoles were recorded as being present, but no attempt was made to count them. Frogs that surfaced when electroshocking for fish were placed on the bank and allowed to recover. Efforts were made not to count the same herp more than once. If there were too many frogs to count (where we would have to stop work on our project in order to count them), we arbitrarily listed them as abundant. If there was a noticeably large population of frogs, we arbitrarily listed them as very abundant. Any unusual physical anomalies and/or behavior were noted. Amphibians that were heard calling were counted and listed as calling. Amphibians and reptiles not readily identified were identified from keys in Collins (1993).

RESULTS

KRE#	DATE	STREAM NAME	COUNTY
KRE01	6/1/94	Sandy Creek	Harper
		Woodhouse's Toad	1
		Northern Cricket Frog (calling)	1
		Black Rat Snake	1
		Slider	1
		Prairie Racerunner	1
KRE02	6/2/94	Mule Creek	Comanche
		Plains Leopard Frog	1
		Bullfrog	1
		Northern Cricket Frog	5
KRE03	6/3/94	Crooked Creek	Meade
		Bullfrog	5
		Plains Leopard Frog	9
		Tadpoles	
		present	
		Slider	1
		Prairie Racerunner	7
KRE04	6/6/94	S. Fork Republican River	Cheyenne
		Woodhouse's Toad	3
		Snapping Turtle	
		1	
KRE05	6/7/94	Willow Creek	Wallace
		Bullfrog	
		5	
		Plains Leopard Frog	4
		Great Plains Toad	1
		Northern Water Snake	2
KRE06	6/8/94	Hackberry Creek	Gove
		Bullfrog	2
		Plains Leopard Frog	5
		Woodhouse's Toad	1
		Great Plains Toad	1
		Tadpoles (Bullfrog)	present
KRE07	6/9/94	Smoky Hill River	Trego
		Bullfrog	1
		Plains Leopard Frog	1
		Woodhouse's Toad	5
		KHS Newsletter No. 99	11

Ornate Box Turtle			1
KRE08	6/13/94	Big Creek	Phillips
Plains Leopard Frog			2
Plains Garter Snake			1
KRE09	6/14/94	Medicine Creek	Osborne
Plains Leopard Frog			very abundant
Woodhouse's Toad			abundant
Tadpoles			very abundant
Comment: water very eutrophic			
KRE10	6/15/94	Lost Creek	Rooks
Plains Leopard Frog			2
KRE11	6/20/94	Big Creek	Ellis
Great Plains Toad			2
Snapping Turtle			1
Spiny Softshell			1
KRE12	6/21/94	Cedar Creek	Russell
Bullfrog			1
Plains Leopard Frog			4
KRE13	6/22/94	West Elkhorn Creek	Lincoln
Northern Cricket Frog			1
Plains Leopard Frog			3
Woodhouse's Toad			1
KRE14	6/23/94	Blood Creek	Barton
Plains Leopard Frog			abundant
comment: creek extremely sedimented and impacted heavily by cattle			
KRE15	6/27/94	Lindsey Creek	Ottawa
Bullfrog			very abundant
Plains Leopard Frog			1
Tadpoles (Bullfrog)			present
comment: small to medium-sized Bullfrogs were found every 3-5 feet along the creek. This sample had the most Bullfrogs of all sites. One Bullfrog had part of its leg bitten or torn off and one tadpole (with legs) had part of its tail bitten or torn off. A bullhead catfish had a bite. These injuries could have been caused by a turtle.			
KRE16	6/28/94	Gypsum Creek	Saline

Bullfrog			23
Plains Leopard Frog			8
Chorus Frog (Boreal or Western)			1
Snapping Turtle			1

KRE17 6/29/94 West Turkey Creek Dickinson

No herps observed

KRE18 7/5/94 Emma Creek Harvey

Bullfrog			5
Plains Leopard Frog			1
Wodhouse's Toad			1

KRE19 7/6/94 Sand Creek Harvey

Snapping Turtle			3
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KRE20 7/11/94 Cottonwood River Marion

Bullfrog			2
Plains Leopard Frog			1
Northern Cricket Frog			very abundant
Spiny Softshell			2

KRE21 7/12/94 East Creek Morris

Bullfrog			1
Plains Leopard Frog			1
Northern Cricket Frog			very abundant
Spiny Softshell			1
Snapping Turtle			1

comment: Snapping Turtle estimated at 20 lbs.

KRE22 7/13/94 South Big Creek Coffey

Bullfrog			2
Plains Leopard Frog			2
Northern Cricket Frog			very abundant

KRE23 7/18/94 Indian Creek Johnson

Bullfrog			6
Plains Leopard Frog			2
Northern Cricket Frog			5

comment: one Bullfrog observed was very lethargic and made no effort to escape when approached and captured.

KRE24 7/19/94 Kansas River Douglas

Gray Treefrog			1
Plains Leopard Frog			3

Northern Cricket Frog (calling) abundant
 Spiny Softshell 1

KRE25 7/20/94 Potawatomie Creek Miami

Bullfrog abundant

KRE26 7/21/94 North Fork Little Sugar Creek Linn

Bullfrog 7
 Southern Leopard Frog 2
 Northern Cricket Frog(calling) abundant
 Tadpoles present abundant
 Northern Water Snake 1
 Plainbelly Water Snake 5
 False Map Turtle 3
 Collared Lizard 4
 Great Plains Skink 2

KRE27 7/25/94 Dragoon Creek
 Osage

Bullfrog 7
 Northern Cricket Frog (calling) abundant
 American Toad 2

KRE28 7/26/94 Stranger Creek
 Leavenworth

Bullfrog 5
 Northern Cricket Frog abundant
 Northern Water Snake 1

KRE29 7/27/94 Fishpond Creek
 Jefferson

Bullfrog 11
 Northern Cricket Frog abundant
 Woodhouse's Toad

KRE30 7/28/94 Whetstone Creek
 Shawnee

Bullfrog 3
 Northern Cricket Frog abundant

comment: one Bullfrog exhibited polymelia, having one extra rear leg. The extra leg was small and atrophied.

KRE31 8/1/94 Bemis Creek
 Butler

Bullfrog 2
 Northern Cricket Frog 7
 Ornate Box Turtle 1

KRE32	8/3/94	East Painterhood Creek	Elk
Bullfrog			4
Northern Cricket Frog			1
Ornate Box Turtle			1
Great Plains Skink			1
Five-lined Skink			1
KRE33	8/4/94	Crooked Creek	Coffey
Bullfrog(calling)			16
Northern Cricket Frog			1
Plains Leopard Frog			2
Southern Leopard Frog			1
KRE34	8/8/94	Ninnescah River	Sedgwick
Bullfrog			1
Northern Cricket Frog (calling)			abundant
Plainbelly Water Snake			1
KRE35	8/22/94	Kruenzli Creek	Wabaunsee
Plains Leopard Frog			1
Northern Cricket Frog			abundant
KRE36	8/24/94	Cedar Creek	Doniphan
No herps observed at this site			
KRE37	8/25/94	Republican River	Clay
Bullfrog			5
Northern Cricket Frog			abundant
KRE38	9/8/94	West Creek	Republic
Bullfrog			4
Northern Cricket Frog			abundant
Plains Leopard Frog			5
KRE39	9/14/94	Fourmile Creek	Geary
Bullfrog			1
Northern Cricket Frog			1
KRE40	8/9/94	Grouse Creek	Cowley
Bullfrog (calling)			abundant
Northern Cricket Frog (calling)			abundant
Snapping Turtle			1
Smooth Softshell			3
KRE41	8/11/94	North Fork Ninnescah River	Reno
Great Plains Toad			1
KHS Newsletter No. 99			15

Plains Leopard Frog			abundant
Bullfrog			9
Northern Water Snake			2
KRE42	9/22/94	Banner Creek	Jackson
No herps observed at this site			
KRE43	9/23/94	Turkey Creek	Nemaha
Bullfrog			3
Plains Leopard Frog			abundant
Northern Cricket Frog			abundant
Spiny Softshell			1
Common Garter Snake			1
KRE44	9/1/94	Otter Creek	Greenwood
Bullfrog			1
Plains Leopard Frog			1
Northern Cricket Frog			1
KRE45	9/6/94	S. Fork Ninescah River	Kingman
Plains Leopard Frog			1
Bullsnake			1
Common Garter Snake			
Skink			1
KRE46	9/7/94	Oak Creek	Smith
Bullfrog			1
Plains Leopard Frog			1
Northern Cricket Frog			1
KRE47	9/13/94	Mill Creek	Wabaunsee
Bullfrog			abundant
Plains Leopard Frog			9
Northern Cricket Frog			7
Northern Water Snake			2
KRE48	9/15/94	Cimarron River	Meade
No herps observed at this site			
KRE49	9/12/94	Lakeview Lake	Douglas
No herps observed at this site			
KRE50	9/21/94	McPherson St. Fishing Lake	McPherson
No herps observed at this site			

CONCLUSION

Electroshocking caused no observable herp mortality. Turtles expelled their breath and the rising bubbles revealed their location. Snakes swam away. On being shocked, frogs became stiff with their hind limbs extended. We made every effort to stop shocking and to place frogs onto a bank, where they recovered in a few minutes. Tadpoles came to the surface and swam away from the shocking device. No salamanders were found at any site.

The polymelic Bullfrog was an interesting find. As this condition is known to occur as a spontaneous mutation and has been recorded as early as the 19th Century (Parent 1992), it is unwise to blame pollution as the cause in this case. However, a few sites in the northwest United States exhibit a high percentage of this anomaly in frog populations (Reynolds and Stephens 1984). These sites were sprayed with insecticides for mosquito control. Not enough evidence exists to draw conclusions from this study but it does indicate the problem deserves additional study.

More sites will be sampled in 1995 and the previous sites will be revisited and resampled in a few years. It does not take much effort to add herps to the sampling protocol and to perform this sampling quantitatively using standardize methods.

It would be interesting to do tissue analysis on Bullfrogs, as was done on fishes. Perhaps this could be done separately from the R-EMAP project during Bullfrog season. Since most persons consume only frog legs, remaining tissues could be frozen and turned into KDWP for analysis.

At minimum, we suggest that one sample team member be responsible for maintaining a list of herps observed, as we have done this year. Little time is involved, and as mentioned, the extensive field work and laboratory analysis involved in this project make it too good an opportunity to pass up.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

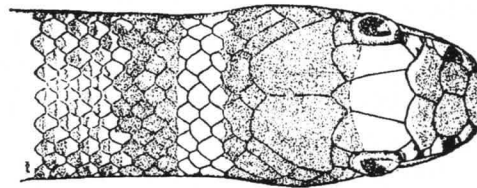
Thanks to all of the KDWP biologists and summer aides who helped us at the various sites around the state. It was enjoyable meeting and working with everyone, our job was made easier, and we learned from every biologist with which we worked (even the one crazy guy who eats live minnows). Thanks also to the landowners who gave us the privilege of sampling their land. This project would not have been possible without them.

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