

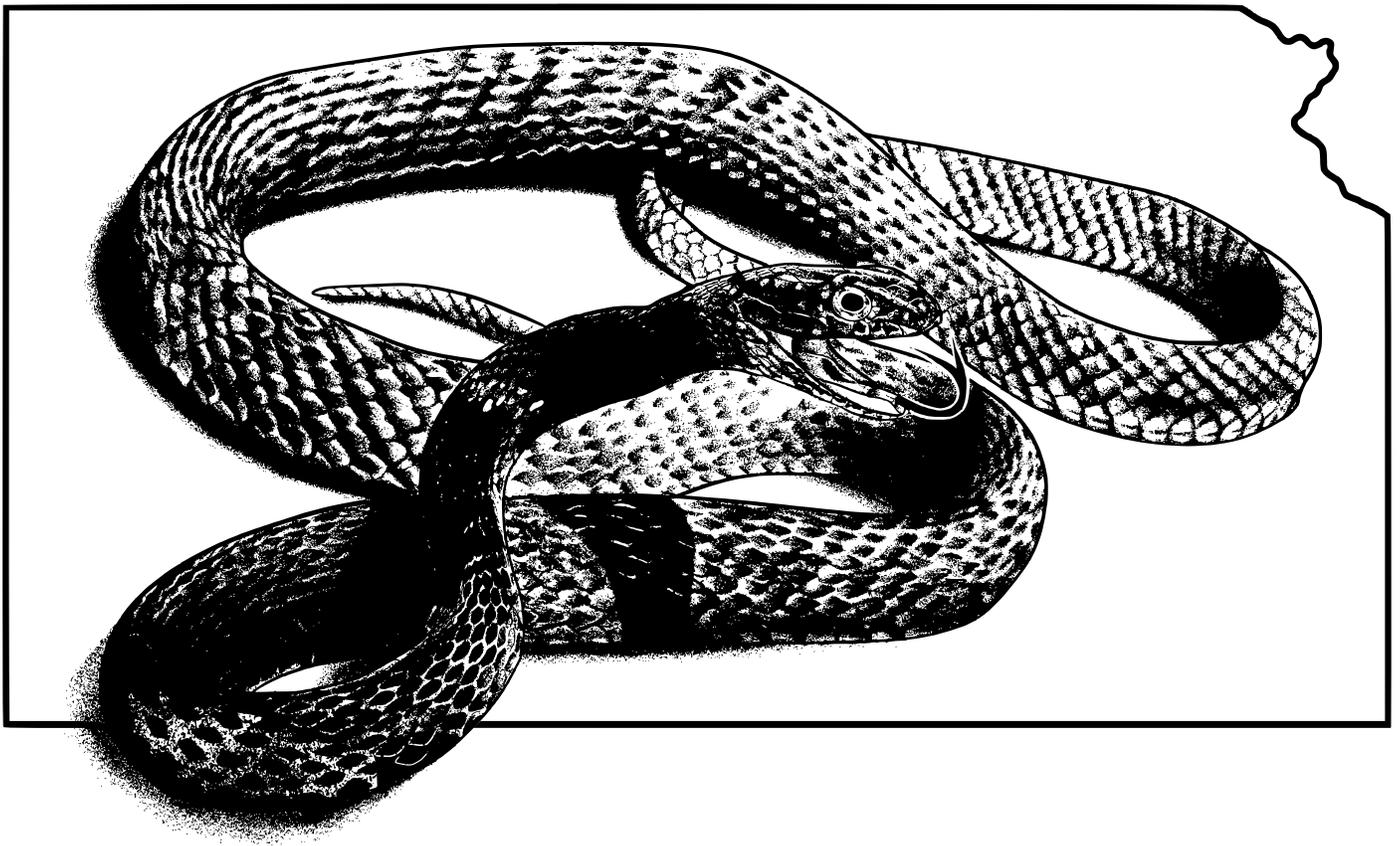
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**Front Cover:** Illustration by Felix Harrington of a Common Coachwhip.

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## KHS BUSINESS

### The KHS 52nd Annual Meeting held in Manhattan, Kansas



Photo by Justine Cerna

KHS 2025 group photograph taken inside the DoubleTree atrium.

The Kansas Herpetological Society held its 52nd Annual Meeting in Manhattan, Kansas, on 7–9 November 2025, hosted at the DoubleTree Ballroom. This year's gathering brought together 218 registrants, reflecting the continued strength of our regional herpetological community and the depth of interest from students, professionals, educators, and dedicated enthusiasts alike.

The meeting opened on Friday with Poster Session I, featuring a diverse collection of student and faculty research, followed by an evening social that allowed attendees to reconnect and meet new colleagues.

**KHS President Kelly Kluthe** began Saturday's program with welcoming remarks before turning the podium over to **Walter Meshaka**, who moderated the first scientific paper session.

Session 1 included the following presentations: **Melissa Youngquist**, "National PARC – 2025 and beyond"; **Jordan Schmitt**, "Research-based herping: How to be ethical & find more herps"; **Richard E. Glor**, "Lizard mouth maggots"; **Monica Macoubrie**, "Herps in the spotlight: Reptile Month, hikes, and a Capitol showcase"; **Brett Riffel**, "Are you board yet? How land management affects snake populations in a restored prairie."

Session 2, moderated by **David Penning**, highlighted new advances in genetics, conservation, and survey work across the region. Presentations included: **Jack-**

**son Roberts**, "Genetic structure of an introduced Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake population."; **Jacob Schaefer**, "Examining genetic diversity and potential cryptic diversity within the Georgia Blind Salamander and Dougherty Plain Cave Crayfish."; **Neil R. Balchan**, "Distributions of the true cobras in Vietnam."; **Matthew J. Klein**, "Reassessing population viability of an isolated Eastern Massasauga population."; **Zane Smith**, "An overview of herpetofauna surveys at Fort Leavenworth."; **Owen Edwards** presented "Behavioral divergence during the range expansion of the Green Treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*)."

The traditional group photograph closed the morning.

The afternoon session, moderated by **Bill Stark**, ranged from regional community ecology to global field studies. Presentations included: **Hayden W. Cannon**, "Do physiographic regions predict amphibian and reptile communities in Kansas?"; **Parker L. Binns**, "Effects of varied precipitation timing on amphibian fitness and ecosystem recovery."; **Molly G. Russell**, "The influence of thermal regimes on tadpole development, size, and ionome."; **J. Daren Riedle**, "Ecotourism and long-term monitoring... on the Drakensberg Plateau."; **Jesse Whitlock**, "What does the world's smallest rattlesnake eat?"; **August Weishaar-Wilson**, "Visual acuity of *Terrapene ornata* across populations.";

The session was followed by Poster Session II, featur-

ing an additional slate of student and professional work.

The Saturday evening program opened with the KHS Awards Ceremony, presented by **Daniel D. Fogell**, *Chair of the KHS Awards Committee*. The Society recognized outstanding research, education, and service across multiple award categories.

- KHS Travel Awards (\$125): **Derek Bateman, Molly Russell, Matthew Klein, Lauren McKinley, Hayden Cannon, Ava Viscek, Neil Balchan, and Kaitlyn Bryant.**
- Suzanne L. & Larry L. Miller Grant for Kansas Public School Teachers (\$350): **Keith Jones**
- Kenneth L. Brunson & Stanley D. Roth Grant (\$500): **Dawson Kosmicki**
- Curtis J. Schmidt Award (\$500): **Jackson Roberts**
- Howard K. Gloyd–Edward H. Taylor Scholarship (\$300): **Gavin Payne**
- Gann Scholarship for Women in Herpetology (\$300): **Sydney Falcon**
- Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes (\$300): **Jackson Roberts**
- Henry S. Fitch–Dwight R. Platt Award (\$200): **Ana Motta**
- Walter Meshaka Award for Excellence in Ecology (\$100): **Alexis Dalton**
- Dennis Ferraro Awards for North American Herpetofaunal Conservation:
  - Best Poster (\$200): **Derek Bateman**
  - Best Presentation (\$300): **Matthew Klein**
- George Toland Award for Ecological Research (\$200): **Molly Russell**
- Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award (\$1,000): **Owen Edwards**
- Bronze Salamander (Distinguished Service Award): **Daniel D. Fogell**, recognized for two decades of extraordinary service and evaluation of more than 600 talks and 200 posters.

Following the presentation of the Society’s annual awards, attendees were treated to the keynote address



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Rich Glor proudly displays his Caldwell Ornate Box Turtle belt buckle, the only one numbered 1 of 250; and finally proving he can out-compete undergrads for limited resources.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Behold: 240 years of KHS involvement, 0 years of agreeing on taxonomy, and unlimited years of telling the same field stories louder each time. (l to r; Mark Ellis, Larry L. Miller, John Tolefson, Kelly Irwin, and Alexis Powell).



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Travis Robbins calculating exactly how much he can bid before needing to explain it to his spouse.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Carolyn Hanish places the sort of bid that suggests she either really loves Lokke art or really hates everyone else in the room.

Photo by Larry L. Miller



Dan Fogell (l) presents Ana Motta with the Fitch-Platt Award for her herpetological work in the state-wide Charles Bunker faunal resurveys.

by **Dr. Lisa Barrow** (University of New Mexico). Her presentation bridged population genetics, biogeographic structure, and amphibian diversity across eastern North America, offering an engaging and integrative close to the scientific portion of the day.

The evening concluded with the annual KHS auction led by Auction Curators extraordinaire **Sydney Falcon** and **Shania Burkhead-Harris**, a lively and good-natured tradition that raised \$9,686 to support Society initiatives, student awards, and future meetings.

Sunday began with Session 4, moderated by **Andrew George**, which included presentations by **David Penning**, "The killer of killers: The insane diet and feeding behaviors of the *Drymarchon* genus"; **Megan Soldatke**, "Landscape usage of Yellow Mud Turtles in southwestern Nebraska."; **Peyton Samek**, "The effects of supplemental feeding on the movement ecology of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*)."; **Amy Dolan**, "Weathering the waters: The effect of long- and short-term weather variables on Western Painted Turtle captures in Marshall County, South Dakota."; **Heather Wayne**, "Mark-recapture of Western Painted Turtles in eastern South Dakota – techniques and goals."; **Derek L. Bateman**, "Body composition of free-ranging wild and head-started juvenile Alligator Snapping Turtles (*Macrochelys temminckii*)."; **Gavin Payne**, "The snap that smiles back: A study of *Chelydra serpentina* bite performance."

Session 5, moderated by Jackson Roberts, featured talks by **Landen Shockley**, "Ghosts of the Arkansas – The history of *Necturus louisianensis* in Oklahoma and their future."; Thomas Luhring "A surfeit of *Siren*."; **Kerri Beers** "The fungi among us: Swabbing for chytrid in true frogs (family Ranidae)"; **Kobi Pearson** "Do I stink? Testing defensive posture and musking on predation

Photo by Larry L. Miller



Dexter Mardis reminds the crowd: yes, you do actually have to pay for the things you won.

Photo by Larry L. Miller



Two attendees enjoy the KHS auction, one calmly observing, the other reacting like someone just bid their entire research stipend.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Dan Fogell (r) presents Gavin Payne with the Howard K. Gloyd-Edward H. Taylor Scholarship.

rates in *Diadophis punctatus*.”; **Yucheol Shin** “Snake collecting across the islands of South Korea – observations and adventures.”; **Travis Robbins**, “Heart rate, respiration rate, and developmental time: Trends along the latitudinal thermal gradient reveal differential reliance on physiological plasticity.”; **Faben Tesfazion**, “If you give a tadpole a chemosensory stimulus: Detection of invasive predator cues and signs of conspecific communication in *Pseudacris sierra* tadpoles.”, and **Owen Conroy** “A novel method for measuring stabilized heart rates in ectotherms.”.

The Toland Award and the Ferraro Award for best presentation were presented at the close of the scientific sessions.

**President Kelly Kluthe** presided over the annual KHS Business Meeting. Committee reports were presented by officers and chairs, and plans for the 53rd Annual Meeting, to be held in Wichita during the first weekend of November 2026, were outlined.

Election results were then announced:

- **President-Elect: Dennis Ferraro** (elected)
- **Treasurer: Dexter Mardis** (re-elected, unopposed)
- **Secretary: Keith Geluso** (re-elected, unopposed)

**President Kluthe** adjourned the meeting, thanking the local committee and all participants for another successful gathering.

The 52nd Annual Meeting was marked by strong scientific engagement, exceptional student participation, and a welcoming spirit that continues to define the Kansas Herpetological Society. We look forward to seeing everyone next year in Wichita for the 53rd Annual Meeting.

Travis W. Taggart  
KHS Editor



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Shania Burkhead-Harris (l) and Sydney Falcon lay down the evening’s ground rules; firmly, clearly, and with just enough implied threat to keep everyone honest and behaved.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Dan Fogell (r) presents Jackson Roberts with the Schmidt Award (still in plastic) for his efforts through the Sternberg Museum and KHS, illustrating that late nights, long drives, and *Nerodia* bites are occasionally rewarded.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

John Lokke (l) and Mark Ellis; two veterans pause to reflect on half a century of KHS growth... and to mutually confirm that yes, things really aren’t better or worse... just different.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Ben Reed demonstrates the proper depth for his signature two-finger probing rule for sexing Three-toed Box Turtles. Instructional for students, mildly insulting for the turtle.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Dan Fogell (l) proudly presents the first-ever Kenneth L. Brunson – Stanley D. Roth Grant for Kansas herp research to Dawson Kosmicki, effectively doubling his map turtle fieldwork budget.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Dan Fogell (l) presents the Gann Award for Women in Herpetology to Sydney Falcon, marking that moment when all of her hard work, field grit, and tolerance to mosquito bites finally paid off.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Tom Luhring brandishes the microphone and a Lokke Blanding's Turtle original while attempting to survive the sudden eruption of bids from people who clearly just woke up for this item.



Photo by Travis W. Taggart

Matthew Klein stands next to his award's founder and namesake Dennis Ferraro (l), while presenter Dan Fogell (r) was later added in digitally, demonstrating once again that technology can solve problems social etiquette cannot.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Shania Burkhead-Harris (l) and Sydney Falcon auction off Jackson Roberts' state vehicle plates, and somehow this is still not the strangest item of the evening.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Suzanne Collins (l) and Thor Larson look on with growing concern, quietly wondering if their license plates might be the next auction item.

Photo by Larry L. Miller



Lisa Barrow begins her keynote; at this point the audience has no idea their entire worldview is about to be rearranged by frog genomics.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

John Tollefson (l) and Kelly Irwin, unrelated, yet effectively indistinguishable; showing that long-term exposure to KHS meetings drives parallel evolution in style and grooming.

Photo by Larry L. Miller



Mid-statement, KHS Treasurer Dexter Mardis effortlessly snatches a fly out of the air... because at KHS, even the general announcements are field exercises.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

The coveted KHS Bronze Salamander is presented to Dan Fogell (l), a long-serving member whose dedication to the Society has officially reached "legend" status.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Suzanne L. and Larry L. Miller Award winner Keith Jones (back center), along with his students, poses for a group photo; joined by the award's namesake and founder himself (r).



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Dan Fogell (l) presents Derek Bateman with the Dennis Ferraro Award for North American Herpetofaunal Conservation-Best Poster.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Larry Miller (l) and Kelly Irwin, two founding members of the KHS quietly scheme a December road (well... hitch-hike) trip in search of Kansas' Ozark salamanders, proving some traditions never die.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Dan Fogell (l) presents Owen Edwards with the prestigious Collins Award for his exquisite photograph of a chorusing Crawfish Frog. Few things epitomize the spirit of the KHS more than an Oklahoma frog, photographed by an Oklahoman, and awarded by a Nebraskan



Photo by Travis W. Taggart

Dan Fogell (r) presents Molly Russell with the George Toland Award for her exceptional ecological research. One celebrates a major scientific achievement... the other reconsiders the ecological impact of that taco plate.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

Victoria Gaa (l) waits patiently to bid on a signed John Lokke Eastern Hog-nosed Snake watercolor, because nothing tests character quite like the final minutes of a silent auction.



Photo by Larry L. Miller

The ceremonial handoff of the gavel from outgoing KHS President Kelly Kluthe (r) to President-Elect Tom Luhring (l); a time-honored tradition that never quite looks natural.

## Notes

### Observations of the Spotted Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris clarkii*) in central Kansas

On 21 June 2023 at 14:00, I detected two Spotted Chorus Frogs (*Pseudacris clarkii*) calling 3 mi south-east of Burrton, Harvey County, Kansas (37.999594°, -97.635982°) and recorded one individual. Conditions were overcast with light rain. Frogs were calling from drainage ditches along row-crop fields adjoining a county road.

Later that evening, I heard one *P. clarkii* calling about 1 mi west of the first site in similar habitat, though skies were mostly clear and precipitation had ceased.

On 22 June 2023 at 09:30, I recorded approximately five *P. clarkii* calling 4 mi east of Buhler, Kansas (38.129842°, -97.688399°). These individuals occupied a wetland between a crop field and a small grassland patch ~50 m from a dirt road. Conditions were partly cloudy with

no precipitation.

On 22 May 2024 I heard *P. clarkii* chorusing in a Rice County shallow pond (38.381331°, -98.126071°).

Although *P. clarkii* is known from Sedgwick County and there is at least one observation from McPherson County, there are no verified records from Harvey or Rice counties. These detections help fill that distributional gap and indicate that the species may be more widespread in central Kansas than current records suggest. Additional surveys and the acquisition of museum vouchers are recommended to document its presence formally.

Jake Wright

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### *Podarcis siculus* (Italian Wall Lizard): Predation

*Podarcis siculus* is an introduced Lacertid in Kansas, and is abundant within a narrow band of urban and suburban habitats (Kansas Herpetofaunal Atlas, <https://webapps.fhsu.edu/ksherp/account.aspx?o=99&t=46>, last examined 2 April 2024).

Little is known of actual predators of the species in Kansas, though it has been logically assumed that “In Kansas, predators of the Italian Wall Lizard probably include domestic cats, other small mammals, and birds (Collins 1993)” (Kansas Herpetofaunal Atlas, op. cit.). Also, “Larry Miller (pers. comm.; Oliverio et al. 2001) reported successful and unsuccessful predation attempts on *Podarcis siculus* by native Great Plains Skinks (*Plestiodon obsoletus*) where the *P. siculus* approached the edge of the urban environment.” (Kansas Herpetofaunal Atlas, op. cit.)

On 1 April 2024 at 1:13PM (CDST), at my personal residence, I observed an adult (sex unknown) Red-

Shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) (Figure 1) capture, kill and consume an adult *Podarcis siculus* on my south-facing back deck (sex unknown but believed to be a male based upon size and capture locality). *Buteo lineatus* is known to be a generalist predator ( <https://birdsandwetlands.com/hawks-in-kansas/>, last examined 1 April 2024).

Local weather data are: Temperature 77.9°F, Dew Point 66.6°F, slight overcast, wind generally S, circa 10mph (Data from <http://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/LLSLAWRE206>).

Thanks are expressed to Galen Pittman (Kansas Biological Survey, Retired) for confirming the bird identification and providing diet information for that species in Kansas.

George R. Pisani, Kansas Biological Survey, Retired,  
809 Connecticut St., Lawrence, Kansas 66044  
gpisani@ku.edu



Figure 1. An adult Red-Shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) observed on my pack porch in Lawrence, Kansas, after in the process of consuming an adult *Podarcis siculus* it had just captured and killed.

## Articles

# Reproductive notes on the Pinewoods Treefrog (*Hyla femoralis* Daudin, 1800) and Squirrel Treefrog (*H. squirella* Bosc, 1800) from mainland Virginia

Walter E. Meshaka, Jr.<sup>1</sup>, Pablo R. Delis<sup>2</sup>, and Danielle F. Costigan<sup>3</sup>

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**Abstract**— Museum specimens of the Pinewoods Treefrog, *Hyla femoralis*, and the Squirrel Treefrog, *H. squirella*, collected from the southeastern Virginia where both species reach the northeastern edges of their geographic ranges were examined to better understand aspects of their life history attributes. Peak testis size of both species coincided with respective calling and egg-laying seasons in southeastern Virginia, and a fat cycle was apparent in males of both species. Among adult females of both species, mean adult body sizes were similar to those of gravid counterparts in the region. Incidence of extensive fat bodies of adult female Pinewood Treefrogs was lowest, and incidence of prey was highest, in yolking females.

### Introduction

The Pinewoods Treefrog (*Hyla femoralis* Daudin, 1800) and Squirrel Treefrog (*H. squirella* Bosc, 1800) are two Southeastern Coastal Plain species whose geographic ranges terminate in southeastern Virginia (Dodd, 2023). Two studies addressed anuran reproduction from that region. The first, which included the Pinewoods Treefrog, examined calling and egg-laying seasons during two consecutive years (Mitchell, 1986). More recently, clutch sizes were reported for 21 Virginia

anuran species, which included both the Pinewoods Treefrog and the Squirrel Treefrog (Mitchell and Pague, 2014). Access to museum specimens provided us with the opportunity to examine novel aspects of the life history of both species at the northern edge of their geographic ranges.

### Materials and Methods

We examined 132 specimens of Pine Woods Treefrog (*H. femoralis* Daudin, 1800) collected during

Virginia counties:

- 1 New Kent
- 2 Surry
- 3 Island of Writhe
- 4 Southhampton
- 5 Suffolk City
- 6 Chesapeake City
- 7 Virginia Beach

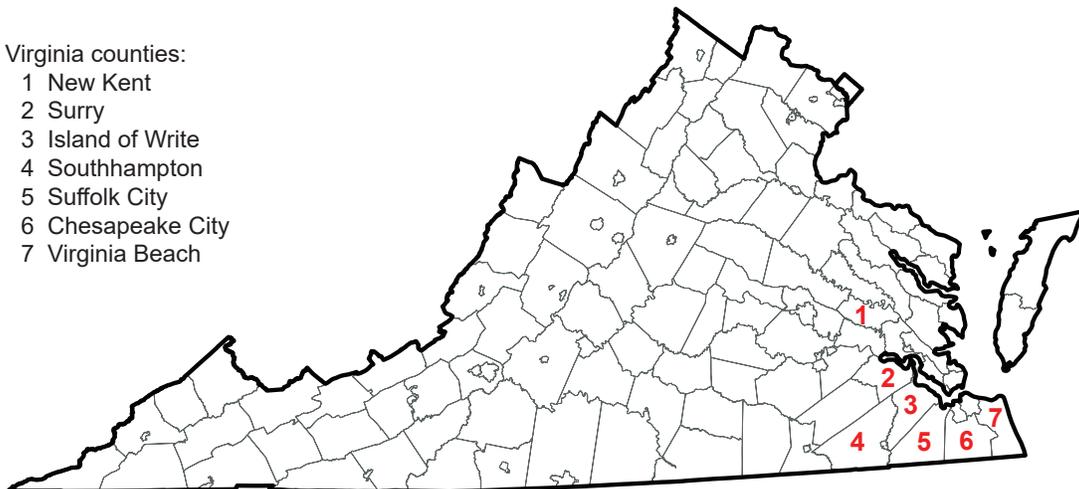


Figure 1. Virginia counties from which museum specimens were examined for this study. *H. femoralis* (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6) and *H. squirella* (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7).

1940–1988, and 96 Squirrel Treefrog (*H. squirella* Bosc, 1800) collected during 1944–1988, from the holdings of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh (Figure 1). Body lengths of all frogs were measured in mm snout-vent length (mm SVL) to the nearest 0.1 mm using calipers. Sexual maturity in males was determined by the presence of vocal sacs and enlarged testes. Length and width of the left testis as a percentage of the body size was used to measure monthly differences in testis dimensions. Sexually mature females were associated with one of four ovarian stages. In the first ovarian stage oviducts were thin and just beginning to coil, and the ovaries are somewhat opaque. In the second ovarian stage, the oviducts were larger and more coiled, and the ovaries contained

some pigmented oocytes. In the third ovarian stage, oviducts were thick and heavily coiled, and the ovaries were in various stages of clutch development. In the fourth ovarian stage, oviducts were thick and heavily coiled, and the ovaries were full of polarized ova with few non-polarized ova, signifying a fully ripened clutch and gravid female (Meshaka 2001). Clutch size was estimated by counts of all polarized eggs. The diameters of 10 randomly chosen eggs from each clutch were measured using an ocular micrometer. Presence of food and extensive fat bodies was noted in adults. Sample statistics, F-tests, and two-tailed t-tests were calculated Microsoft 2018. Statistical significance was recognized at  $p \leq 0.05$ . Means were followed by  $\pm 1$  standard deviations.

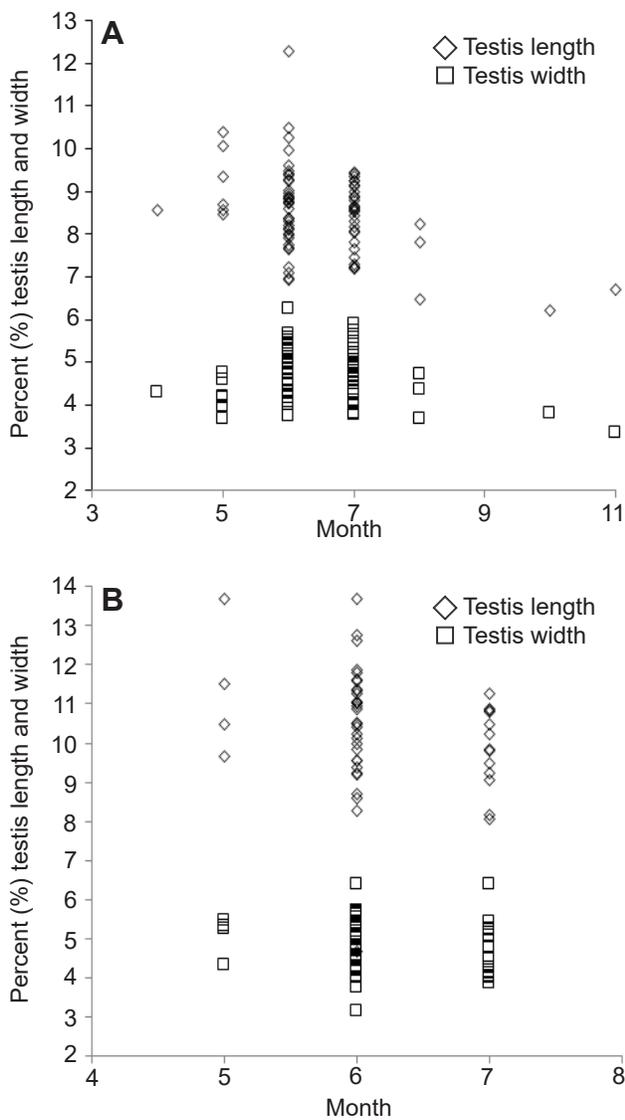


Figure 2. Monthly distribution of testis length and width as a percentage of male body size in snout-vent length (mm SVL) in (A) 77 *Hyla femoralis*, and (B) 57 *H. squirella*, from Virginia.

**Results and Discussion**

Mean adult SVL of the Pine Woods Treefrog differed significantly ( $F = 0.705$ ,  $P = 0.08$ ;  $t = -9.824$ ,  $df = 130$ ,  $P = 0.0000$ ) between males (mean =  $31.5 \pm 1.8$  mm; range = 25.5–36.9;  $n = 86$ ) and females (mean =  $35.0 \pm 3.3$  mm; range = 30.2–40.8;  $n = 46$ ). Average adult size of males was 90.0% that of females. Gravid females from Virginia averaged 34.9 mm SVL (Mitchell and Pague, 2014). Mean adult SVL of the Squirrel Treefrog did

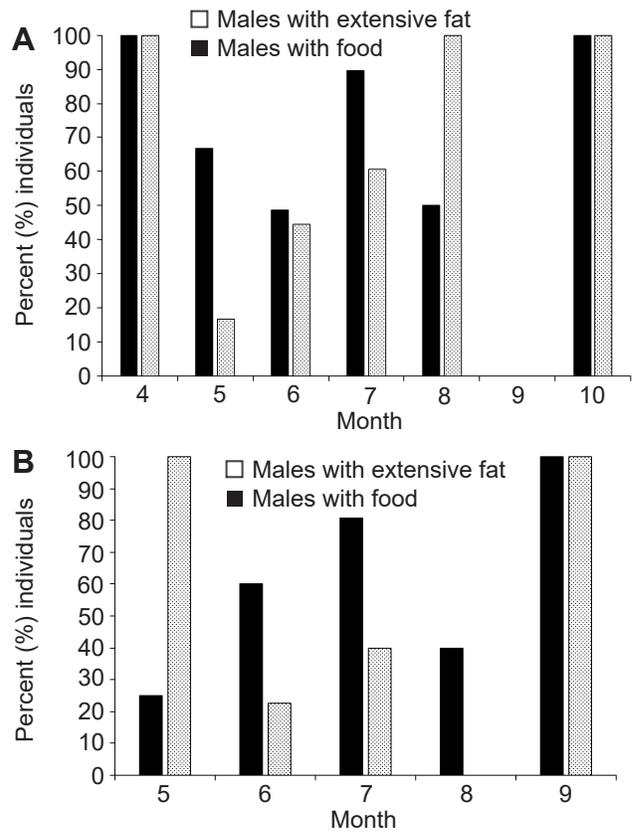


Figure 3. Monthly incidence of extensive fat and the presence of food in males of the (A) *Hyla femoralis* ( $n = 86$  and  $86$ , respectively), and (B) *H. squirella* ( $n = 57$  and  $71$ , respectively), from Virginia.

not differ significantly ( $F = 0.587$ ,  $P = 0.08$ ;  $t = 0.046$ ,  $df = 94$ ,  $P = 0.96$ ) between males (mean =  $30.8 \pm 1.9$  mm; range = 26.7–38.0;  $n = 74$ ) and females (mean =  $30.7 \pm 2.4$  mm; range = 25.9–34.0;  $n = 22$ ). Average adult SVL of males was 100.1% that of females. Gravid females from Virginia averaged 32.1 mm SVL (Mitchell and Pague, 2014).

Most testes of the Pine Woods Treefrog were longest in May and June, followed by a sharp decrease in July, whereas widths appear to have reached peak size in June and July (Figure 2). Mitchell (1986) reported calling by the Pinewoods Treefrog from early-May to early-August in one year and the latter half of July in the following year in Virginia. Testis length of the Squirrel Treefrog appears to have peaked by June, followed by sharp decrease in length in July (Figure 2). Testis width may have been maximal in June and July (Figure 2). In the same region of Virginia, testis size of the Green Treefrog, *H. cinerea*, reached maximum length and width in May, decreased thereafter, and began to increase in September (Meshaka et al., 2020).

Incidence of extensive fat bodies in males of the Pine Woods Treefrog appears to have dropped in May from a high in April, followed by a gradual increase over the next few months (Figure 3). No apparent monthly pattern to incidence of prey was detected in this species, although the highest incidences were in April and October (Figure 3). Incidence of extensive fat bodies in males of the Squirrel Treefrog appear to have dropped in June from a high in May, followed by a gradual increase over the next few months (Figure 3). Individuals in May had the lowest incidence of food in stomachs followed by a gradual increase through the season, excepting August, and peaking in September (Figure 3). Incidence of extensive fat in females of the Pine Woods Treefrog decreased with the progression

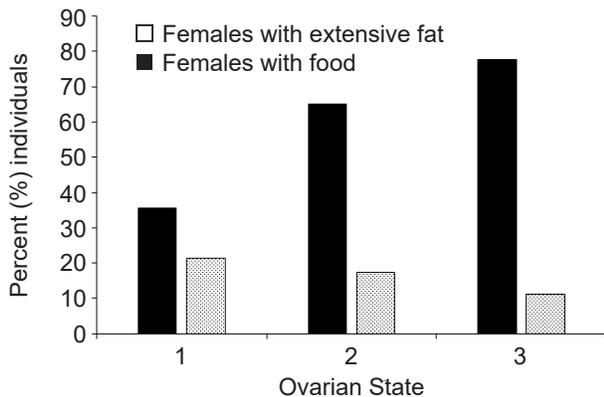


Figure 4. Frequency of extensive fat and the presence of food in three ovarian stages (1 = thin oviducts incipient coiling/somewhat opaque ovaries, 2 = large oviducts clear coiling/pigmented ovaries with oocytes, 3 = thick heavily coiled oviducts/ovaries in various stages of clutch development) in 46 *Hyla femoralis*, from Virginia.

of oogenesis (Figure 4). Contrary to that pattern, the incidence of food increased as females began yolking (Figure 4). Egg-laying in Mitchell's (1986) study took place from late-May to early-August one year and on 22 July the following year. All but one of the advanced yolking (ovarian stage 3) were collected in June. The last one was collected in August. It is possible that the decline in fat was associated with forthcoming clutches. Foraging at that time could have been for a second clutch or subsequent fat storage. No clear patterns could be ascertained from the small sample collected from May to August. Our sample did not contain any gravid female Pinewood Treefrogs, so no determination could be made with regards to clutch size or egg diameter. However, clutch characteristics were available for two Squirrel Treefrogs in our study. A 29.1 mm female captured on 30 June 1986 from Suffolk City contained 419 eggs averaging 1.0 mm ( $\pm 0.12$  mm; range = 0.8–1.2). A 28.8 mm female captured on 6 July 1985 from Virginia Beach City contained 557 eggs averaging 1.0 mm ( $\pm 0.09$  mm; range = 0.9–1.2). Our modest findings add to the scant reproduction data available for these two Southeastern Coastal Plain species at the northern edge of their geographic ranges. Furthermore, these data, derived from collections made 40 years ago, could provide the sorts of baseline data useful to compare with more contemporary reproductive cycles possibly subject to the effects of a warming environment.

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## A contribution to a complete bibliography of Kansas herpetology

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Joe Collins (1974) was the first to attempt a comprehensive herpetological bibliography for Kansas, assembling 489 references. Earlier bibliographic efforts (e.g., Smith 1950, 1956) included only the works cited within the text or provided partial bibliographies. Collins continued expanding this effort in subsequent Kansas herpetology books; Collins (1982; 999 references), Collins and Collins (1993; 1,367 references), and Collins et al. (2010; 2,132 references), as well as through annual updates documenting new size maxima, recent literature, and noteworthy specimen records that had come to light since the previous installment (Collins and Caldwell, 1976; Caldwell and Collins, 1977; Collins and Caldwell, 1976; through Collins, 2009).

The purpose of this report is to update the bibliography and establish a baseline moving forward. The bibliography (Appendix 1) now includes 3,678 citations relevant to Kansas amphibians and reptiles. Of these, 588 are newly published works that appeared after the cutoff date for Collins et al. (2010) (30 June 2009). The remaining 958 citations predate Collins et al. (2010) but were newly discovered, due largely to the exponential growth of digital access and searchable repositories on the internet and, more recently,

AI-enabled discovery tools (e.g., Google Scholar, JSTOR, BioStor, InternetArchive, WorldCat, Biodiversity Heritage Library) (Figure 1). Most of these tools were unavailable or only minimally developed in 2009.

This updated bibliography is intended to reestablish a baseline for Kansas herpetology, and, following the precedent set by Joe Collins, I will continue to provide annual updates that incorporate newly published works, noteworthy rediscoveries, and citations uncovered through ongoing digitization and literature searches. A continuously updated list of Kansas herpetology publications is maintained on the Kansas Herpetofaunal Atlas ([webapps.fhsu.edu/ksherp](http://webapps.fhsu.edu/ksherp)) "Library", and readers are encouraged to consult that resource for the most current information.

The 3,678 references in this bibliography span a wide range of publication types (Figure 2), reflecting the diverse ways herpetological information related to Kansas has entered the scientific record. Journal articles constitute the majority (2,751), followed by books (318), theses and dissertations (251 combined), and a substantial body of reports and popular literature, including magazine articles (100) and book sections or edited book chapters (85 total). Only six newspaper articles are included, not because newspapers are

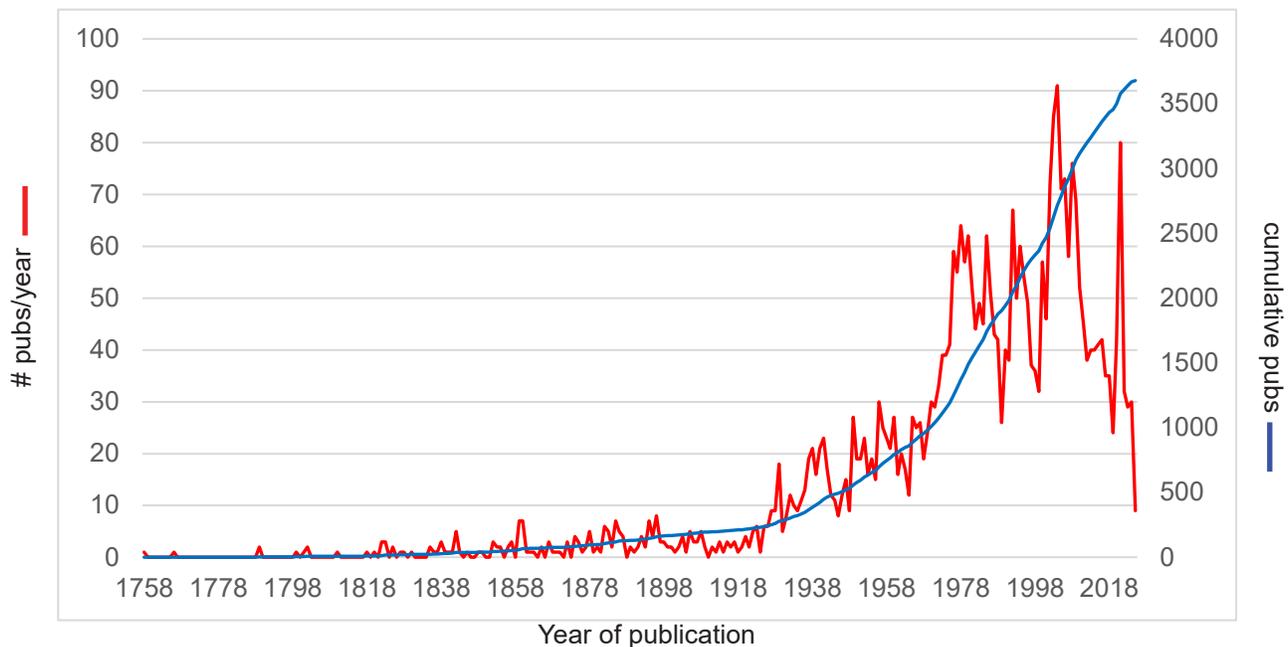


Figure 1: The number of references on Kansas herpetology published by year (red; left axis) and cumulatively (blue; right axis) illustrating the accelerating rate of knowledge accumulation.

unimportant, but because they require careful vetting: newspapers likely represent a source that could easily exceed all other categories combined, yet only those articles providing verifiable, substantive, and otherwise unavailable information were incorporated. This categorization highlights both the depth of formal scientific publishing on Kansas herpetofauna and the selective approach needed when drawing from less traditional sources.

Because no bibliography of this scope can be fully exhaustive, I also invite readers to report missing or overlooked publications via the email address provided in the byline. Community contributions will help ensure that this bibliography remains both accurate and comprehensive moving forward.

I gratefully acknowledge Suzanne L. Collins (Center for North American Herpetology, Lawrence) for providing access to Joe Collins' extensive bibliographic resources, which were indispensable to this effort. I also thank Jackson Roberts (Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Hays) for helpful discussions and for contributing to the conceptual development of this latest Kansas herpetology bibliography.

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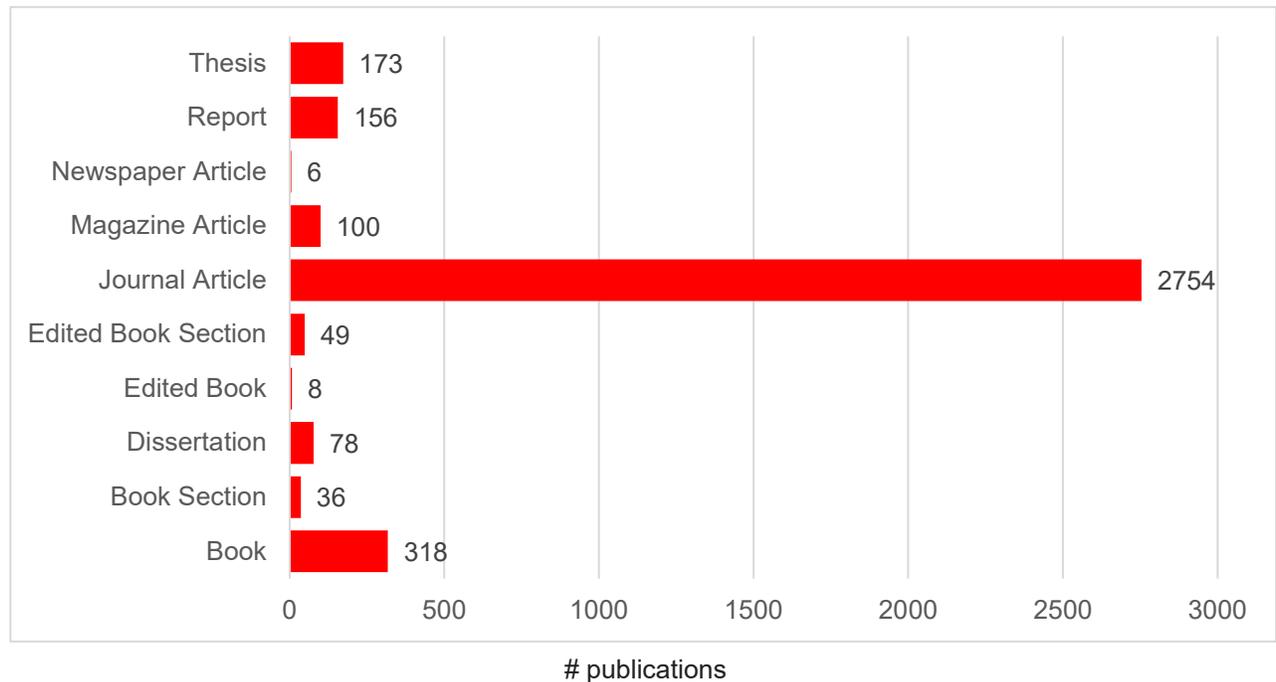


Figure 2: Publication reference types on Kansas herpetology.

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## About the Kansas Herpetological Society

The KHS 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 the herpetofauna of Kansas in particular; and to achieve closer cooperation and understanding between herpetologists, so that they may work together in common cause. All interested persons are invited to become members of the Society. Membership dues per calendar year are \$15.00 (U.S., Regular), \$20.00 (outside North America, Regular), and \$20.00 (Contributing) payable to the KHS. Send all dues to: KHS Secretary, (address inside the front cover)

### *KHS Meetings*

The KHS holds an annual meeting in the fall of each year. The meeting is, minimally, a two day event with lectures and presentations by herpetologists. All interested individuals are invited to make presentations. The annual meeting is also the time of the Saturday night social and fund-raising auction.

### *Field Trips*

The KHS hosts three field trips each year, one each in the spring, summer, and fall. Field trips are an enjoyable educational experience for everyone, and also serve to broaden our collective understanding of the distribution and abundance of the amphibians, reptiles, and turtles in Kansas. All interested persons are invited to attend.

## Editorial Policy

*Collinsorum*, currently issued digitally as submissions warrant, publishes all society business.

### *Submission of Manuscripts*

As space allows, *Collinsorum* publishes all manner of news, notes, and articles. Priority of publishing is given to submissions of Kansas herpetological subjects and by KHS members; however, all submissions are welcome. The ultimate decision concerning the publication of a manuscript is at the discretion of the Editor. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor in an electronic format whenever possible. All manuscripts become the sole possession of the Society, and will not be returned unless arrangements are made with the Editor.

## Societal Awards, Grants, and Recognitions

### *Distinguished Life Members*

Individuals selected as Distinguished Life Members are chosen by the KHS Executive Council based on their distinguished published research papers on Kansas herpetology.

### *Bronze Salamander Award*

A bronze salamander on a walnut base; exemplary long-term service to the KHS

### *The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award*

\$1,000 and a commemorative plaque; best paper/presentation (even years) or photograph (odd years)

### *The Suzanne L. & Larry L. Miller Grant for Kansas Public School Teachers*

Up to \$350 to support teachers in Kansas public schools to get hands-on experiences in herpetology

### *The Kenneth L. Brunson — Stanley D. Roth Grant*

\$500 for the best-judged proposal for herpetofaunal research in Kansas

### *The Curtis J. Schmidt Award*

\$500; commitment to, and excellence in, public education and engagement regarding the Kansas herpetofauna

### *Howard K. Gloyd — Edward H. Taylor Scholarship*

\$300; Educational scholarship

### *Gann Scholarship for Women in Herpetology*

\$300; Educational scholarship

### *Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes*

\$300; Best research proposal on Kansas snakes

### *Henry S. Fitch — Dwight R. Platt Award for Excellence in Field Herpetology*

\$200; For exemplary herpetological fieldwork in Kansas

### *George Toland Award for Ecological Research on North American Herpetofauna*

\$200; All students presenting papers on the ecology of North American herpetofauna at the KHS annual meeting are eligible for the George Toland Award.

### *Walter Meshaka Award for Excellence of North American Amphibians and Reptiles Ecology*

\$100; Best poster presented at the KHS Annual Meeting

### *The Dennis Ferraro Awards for North American Herpetofaunal Conservation*

The awards will be given out at the conclusion of the KHS Annual Meeting to the best student presenters regarding Conservation of North American Herpetofauna (\$300 talk and \$200 poster).

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