

## **New County Records of Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas**

MICHAEL S. RUSH AND EUGENE D. FLEHARTY  
Department of Biological Sciences, Museum of the High Plains  
Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601

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### **ABSTRACT**

Twenty-three specimens of reptiles and amphibians are reported which are new county records. All specimens are housed in the Museum of the High Plains, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas.

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No comprehensive work on the herpetofauna of Kansas existed prior to Smith's (1950) "Handbook of Amphibians and Reptiles of Kansas," which was revised in 1956. Collins (1974) published an updated "Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas." Collins' volume and subsequent publications by the Kansas Biological Survey have provided more precise information on the natural history and distribution of amphibians and reptiles in Kansas.

Herein is added new distributional data, by county, of twenty-three amphibians and reptiles in Kansas with capture data as available. All specimens are housed in the Museum of the High Plains (MHP), Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas. All common and scientific names are taken from Collins et al. (1978).

#### *American Toad (Bufo americanus)*

MHP 5754. Neosho Co: T.30S, R.20E, sec. 22 [=Neosho County State Lake, 11 mi. (17.5 km) S, 2 mi. (3.2 km) E Erie]. 28 April 1978. N. J. Hilscher, collector.

The existence of this species in Neosho County was expected, but previously unrecorded. It has been reported from all of the surrounding counties except Bourbon County to the northeast (Collins, 1974).

#### *Blanchard's Cricket Frog (Acris crepitans blanchardi)*

MHP 5687. Morton Co: 9 mi. (14.5 km) N, 3 mi. (4.8 km) E Elkhart (T.33S, R.41W, NE ¼ sec. 35). 8 April 1978. R. B. Wilhelm, collector.

This specimen extends the known range of this species in Kansas approximately 45 miles (72 km) to the west from the nearest record in Seward County (Collins, pers. comm.).

Plains Leopard Frog (*Rana blairi*)

MHP 6258. Saline Co: 4½ mi. (7.2 km) S, 5½ mi. (8.8 km) E Salina (T.15S, R.2W, N ½ sec. 25). 4 May 1980. S. D. Lang, collector.

The specimen was captured by hand on the bank of a small creek below a pasture pond at 1:00 p.m. with the air temperature in the seventies and the sky clear. The existence of this species in Saline County was expected, but remained unrecorded.

Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*)

MHP 5843. Rush Co: T.16S, R.18W, SE ¼ sec. 21 [=1 mi. (1.6 km) S Liebenthal]. 9 May 1978. T. Hardy, collector.

This specimen was taken approximately 12 miles (19.2 km) south of the nearest record in Ellis County. It extends the somewhat spotty distribution of this species in western Kansas (Collins, 1974).

Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornata ornata*)

MHP 6050. Norton Co: 3 mi. (4.8 km) S, 1 mi. (1.6 km) E Almena [=T.2S, R.21W, SE ¼ sec. 28]. 25 June 1976. N. L. Malcolm, collector.

MHP 5820. Rush Co: 1 mi. (1.6 km) N, 6 mi. (9.6 km) W Rush Center (Walnut Creek) [=T.18S, R.19W, NW ¼ sec. 22]. 8 April 1978. R. Wagner, collector.

MHP 6194. Sherman Co: 11 mi. (17.6 km) S, 3½ mi. (5.6 km) W Goodland (T.10S, R.40W, N ½ sec. 15). 15 September 1979. M. S. Rush, collector. This specimen was taken in short-grass prairie in a moist depression near Sherman County State Lake.

None of the above three specimens represents an extension in the range of this species in Kansas, but all help to fill in the known geographical range within the state (Collins, 1974).

Red-eared Slider (*Chrysemys scripta elegans*)

MHP 6253. Neosho Co: Lake Parsons (T.30S, R.19E, sec. 16). 26 April 1980. S. J. Valek, collector. Shell only.

Midland Smooth Softshell (*Trionyx muticus muticus*)

MHP 2745. Ellis Co: ½ mi. (0.8 km) N Pfeifer, Smoky Hill River [=T.15S, R.17W, SW ¼ sec. 25]. 4 May 1964. J. Flake, collector.

No capture data are available with this specimen. It is, however, the westernmost record for this species from a western tributary of the Kansas River except for a specimen reported by Smith (1950) that he never examined and that Collins (1974) did not cite.

An additional record of this species (MHP 6221) was taken in Ellis County from 15¼ mi. (24.4 km) N and 1 mi. (1.6 km) E of Hays on the Saline River (T.11S, R.18W, E ½ sec. 15) on 27 February 1980 by M. Eberle.

These records indicate breeding populations approximately 100 miles west from the nearest record in this river system.

Southern Coal Skink (*Eumeces anthracinus pluvialis*)

MHP 6255. Neosho Co: 10 mi. (16 km) S, 2½ mi. (4 km) E Erie, Neosho Co. St. Lake #2 (T.30S, R.20E, NE ¼ sec. 22). 26 April 1980. S. G. Jorgenson, collector.

This specimen was taken 30 miles NW of the nearest record in Cherokee County (Collins, pers. comm.). It was collected under a piece of scrap metal on a hillside covered with trash, rocks, and leaf litter. The air temperature was 55°F (13°C).

Prairie Ringneck Snake (*Diadophis punctatus arnyi*)

MHP 6252. Coffey Co: John Redmond Reservoir (T. 20S, R.13E, sec. 32). 27 April 1980. B. Rhodes, collector.

MHP 6257. Saline Co: 1 mi. (1.6 km) E Salina (T.14S, R.2W, SW ¼ sec. 21). 4 May 1980. S. D. Lang, collector.

These specimens represent no significant range extension in Kansas, but previously were not recorded in these counties (Collins, 1974).

Eastern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon platyrhinos*)

MHP 6271. Russell Co: 5 mi. N, 2 mi. W Russell (T.12S, R.14W, NW ¼ sec. 4). 11 August 1980. T. A. Nulton, collector. This specimen serves to fill in the somewhat spotty known distribution of this species in Kansas (Collins, 1974).

Rough Green Snake (*Opheodrys aestivus*)

MHP 6256. Neosho Co: 10 mi. (16 km) S, 2½ mi. (4 km) E Erie, Neosho Co. St. Lake #2 (T.30S, R.20E, NE ¼ sec. 22). 26 April 1980. R. S. Mellott, collector. This specimen was taken under a log from a woody hillside. The air temperature was 55°F (13°C).

This is within the known range of this species in Kansas, but was previously unrecorded in this county (Collins, 1974).

Eastern Yellowbelly Racer (*Coluber constrictor flaviventris*)

MHP 5660. Osborne Co: T.9S, R.12W, NE ¼ sec. 30 [=13 mi. (20.8 km) S Osborne]. 22 August 1966. D. R. Ittner, collector.

This species occurs throughout Kansas, but previously was unrecorded in this county (Collins, 1974).

Eastern Coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum flagellum*)

MHP 6114. Bourbon Co: T.26S, R.21E, NE ¼ sec. 14 [=Bourbon Co. St. Lake, 4 mi. (6.4 km) S, 5 mi. (8 km) W Uniontown]. 10 May 1969. U. G. Hutton, collector.

This is the northeastern most record of this species in Kansas and represents a significant range extension. It was taken 60 miles NNW of Cherokee County record and 45 miles NE of the Wilson County record (Collins, pers. comm.).

Great Plains Rat Snake (*Elaphe guttata emoryi*)

MHP 6261. Crawford Co: 8¾ mi. (14 km) N, 2 mi. (3.2 km) E Girard. (T.28S, R.24E, NE ¼ sec. 5). 26 April 1980. M. S. Rush, collector.

This specimen was taken between two large flat rocks at the top of a rocky, woody hillside on the edge of a pasture. The air temperature was 55°F (13°C) on an overcast day. This specimen extends the range of this species in southeastern Kansas 45 miles east of the nearest record in Wilson County (Collins, pers. comm.).

MHP 5863. Kiowa Co: 10 mi. (16 km) S, 2 mi. (3.2 km) E Greensburg (T.30S, R.18W, SE ¼ sec. 2). 15 April 1978. J. C. Burns, collector.

This is within the known range of this species in Kansas, but was previously unrecorded in Kiowa County (Collins, 1974).

Kansas Glossy Snake (*Arizona elegans elegans*)

MHP 5870. Kiowa Co: 6 mi. (9.6 km) W, ¾ mi. (1.2 km) E Haviland (T.29S, R.16W, NE ¼ sec. 17). 3 October 1976. J. C. Burns, collector. This specimen was taken within the known range of this species in southern Kansas, but was previously unrecorded in Kiowa County (Collins, 1974).

Western Ribbon Snake (*Thamnophis proximus proximus*)

MHP 6254. Trego Co: 16½ mi. (26.4 km) S, 9¼ mi. (14.8 km) E Wa-Keeney (T.15S, R.22W, NE ¼ sec. 1). 20 March 1980. R. E. Cooper, collector.

This specimen was taken from the grassy banks of an intermittent stream. The air temperature was approximately 50°F (10°C).

This locale is on the western edge of the known geographical range for this subspecies (Collins, 1974).

Lined Snake (*Tropidoclonion lineatum*)

MHP 6251. Crawford Co: 8¾ mi. (14 km) N, 2 mi. (3.2 km) E Girard (T.28S, R.24E, NE ¼ sec. 5). 26 April 1980. S. M. Royal, collector.

This specimen was taken beneath a rock on a rocky hillside. The air temperature was 55°F (13°C) on an overcast day.

This is the southeastern most record of this species in Kansas, but is within the range of the species. It was collected 25 miles (40 km) southeast of the nearest record in Bourbon County (Collins, pers. comm.).

Northern Water Snake (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*)

MHP 6259. Saline Co: 4½ mi. (7.2 km) S, 5½ mi. (8.8 km) E Salina (T.15S, R.2W, N ½ sec. 25). 4 May 1980. S. D. Lang, collector.

This specimen was collected from a pasture pond spillway at an air temperature of approximately 75°F (24°C).

This locale is within the range of this species in Kansas but previously was unrecorded from this county (Collins, 1974).

Western Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus tergeminus*)

MHP 6260. Rush Co: 3 mi. (4.8 km) E Liebenthal (T.16S, R.18W, SW ¼ sec. 13). 10 May 1980. K. Thompson, collector.

This locale is on the western edge of the range of this subspecies in Kansas. The Ellis County specimen (Collins, 1974) cannot be found, but the above locality is 35 miles (56 km) WNW of the nearest Barton County record (Collins, pers. comm.).

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