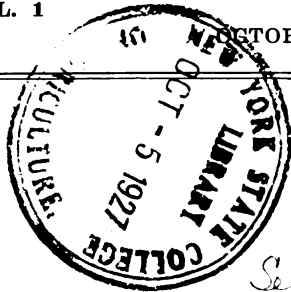


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VOL. 1

NO. 1



Series discontinued

OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE
MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY
AND ENTOMOLOGY

STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

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NOTES ON COLORADO HERPETOLOGY

By
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NOTES ON COLORADO HERPETOLOGY

By W. L. Burnett

The Herpetology of Colorado has not been very fully worked out. Much is yet to be done on the distribution of the different species listed as occurring in the state. No doubt a number of new species will be added from time to time as collecting is carried on in the more isolated sections.

The only systematic list of Colorado Herpetology we have was published in the "University of Colorado Studies," Vol. 10, No. 2, 1913, by Ellis and Henderson. This was followed by a supplement in University of Colorado Studies, June, 1915, by the same authors.

In this list was included the specimens in the University Collection, also specimens in the collection of other State Institutions, including the Museum at the State Agriculture College, and a number of private collections.

Since this list was published, a number of specimens have been added to the Agriculture College Collection.

No attempt has been made in this paper to list these specimens. This will be done in a paper we hope to publish in the near future.

We are only listing species that are rare, or the common species where we have additional notes on distribution, that seem worthy of record at this time.

Spadefoot Toad

Scaphiopus hammondii bombifons Cope

While engaged in some rodent investigation in Montezuma County, season of 1925, Mr. S. C. McCampbell collected a specimen of the spadefoot toad (C. A. C. Collection, No. 5199). We identified it as *bombifons*, basing our determination on the rounded muzzle, and smooth skin.

In order to verify our determination we sent the specimen to Dr. Tracy I. Storer of the University of California. He verified it to the extent of placing it in the *hammondii* group. Whether our determination of this specimen of toad stands or falls depends on the validity of *bombifons* as a sub species.

The specimen was taken May 13, 1925, near Cortez, Montezuma County, from the entrance of a prairie-dog burrow. The burrow was located in a blue grass pasture, just below a ditch which had a seepy bank.

Mountain Toad

Bufo boreas boreas Baird and Girard

We have taken the mountain toad in two localities in Jackson County, Wyocola and Rabbit Ears Pass.

The Rabbit Ears Pass specimens were taken under decayed stumps and logs, where they had burrows in the moist ground.

I found them common in Pingree Park, Larimer County, in July 1925.

Spotted Toad

Bufo punctatus Baird and Girard

The first records for this toad in the state was published in University of Colorado Studies, June, 1915, by Ellis and Henderson, as follows:

"This toad is included here in the herpetological fauna of Colorado for the first time, specimens having been taken on Basin Creek near the northern line of San Miguel County, about six or eight miles from Naturita, Colorado, at an elevation of about 6,500 feet. These specimens were captured by Mr. Henderson and Roy Coffin on June 19, 1914."

Mr. S. C. McCampbell captured a specimen of the spotted toad, near McElmo Creek, Montezuma County, July 30, 1925 (C. A. C. Collection No. 5200).

The specimen was taken from a prairie-dog burrow, which was located in sandy loam, McElmo Creek, near where the specimen was taken is cut deeply into the soil and sandstone.

Our identification of this toad as *punctatus* was verified by Dr. Tracy Storer of the University of California.

Western Toad

Bufo cognatus cognatus Say

One specimen taken in a sugar beet field near Sedgwick, Sedgwick Co., July 27, 1917. (C. A. C. Collection No. 4665).

One specimen taken in Weld County near Briggsdale July 14, 1925.

Three Lined Tree Frog

Chorophilus triseriatus Wied

The writer found this three-lined tree frog common at Pingree Park, Larimer County, July 7-8, 1925.

Some were found around stagnate pools, others were living in small burrows along the roadside on a dry hill.

One specimen taken June 24, 1926, between Center and Saguache, Saguache County (C. A. C. Collection No. 5209)

Cricket Frog

Acris gryllus LeConte

We have one specimen of Cricket Frog, taken May 27, 1922, at entrance of prairie-dog burrow, near Briggsdale, Weld County (C. A. C. Collection No. 4843)

Yellow Banded Swift

Sceloporus consobrinus Baird and Girard
Sceloporus elongatus Stejneger

Ellis and Henderson list all Colorado Specimens of the Yellow-banded swift as *consobrinus*.

Mr. McCampbell captured a number of specimens of this Swift in Montezuma County in 1925.

These specimens were identified through Dr. Frank N. Blanchard of the University of Michigan as *elongatus*. The following notes may apply to either or both species:

A female taken May 8, 1925 at Cortez, Montezuma County, Contained seven eggs.

Another female shot in northeastern Las Animas County, May 20, 1926, contained eleven eggs.

King Snake

Lampropeltis triangulum gentilis Baird and Girard

This snake is listed by Ellis and Henderson under the name, *Ophibolus doliatus gentilis*.

Mr. Ben King, at that time County agent for Montrose County, sent us a young of this snake taken November 15, 1921, near the town of Montrose.

This King Snake has been reported to us from Paonia, Delta County, and from near Manassa, Conjose County.

We have a specimen taken September 15, 1925, at Hugo, Lincoln County. (C. A. C. Collection No. 5214)

Another specimen from Lincoln County (C. A. C. Collection No. 5213) differs from the average specimens by a greater extent of the black and a restriction of the red. This specimen was identified by Dr. Frank N. Blanchard of the University of Michigan.