

## Selected Records of Reptiles and Amphibians From Southeastern Kansas

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Material accumulated in the Museum of Pittsburg State Teachers College by the senior author, from Labette, Crawford and Cherokee counties, includes three species of which specimens seem not to have been recorded previously from within the borders of Kansas. Records of these three species and certain other noteworthy occurrences are published here as a contribution to our knowledge of the herpetological fauna of the state. The locality data are supplied by Hall and the taxonomic data by Smith. All specimens, originally identified by Hall, have, with few exceptions, been checked by Smith, and certain specimens have been studied in detail. The specimen of *Ophiodrys vernalis blanchardi* has not been seen by Smith. Unless otherwise specified, catalogue numbers are those of the Museum of Pittsburg State Teachers College.

### *Necturus maculosus maculosus* (Rafinesque)

Common in several small streams within three or four miles of Pittsburg, Crawford County.

### *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis* (Daudin)

An adult female (No. 586) was taken from the Neosho River in Labette County, due west of McCune, Crawford Co., and a half grown individual (No. 4562) is from a small tributary of Spring River, one mile north of Riverton, Cherokee Co. The measurements are, respectively: snout to vent, 275 mm., 185 mm.; length of tail, 150 mm., 85 mm.; depth of tail, 52 mm., 27 mm.

This record of occurrence extends the known range 200 miles westward, including for the first time the Arkansas River Valley.

In adult: large, diffuse dark spots present on dorsal surface of body and sides of tail; dusky color of central gular region gradually merging with dark color of labial region; gular and labial spots not apparent; two folds on posterior borders of thighs; prevomerine teeth 19-22; greatest diameter of gill slit exactly half of internarial distance.

The smaller specimen has on the dorsal surface small, dark

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spots, the diameter of which do not exceed half the internarial distance, no distinct spots on the tail (specimen somewhat shriveled and pattern thus not clearly discernible), folds on body like those on the larger specimen, prevomerine teeth 16-17, and diameter of gill slit slightly less than half of internarial distance.

These specimens have been compared directly with a large, typical *C. bishopi* (Univ. Kans. No. 16143) from Greene Springs, Vernon Co., Missouri. They do not have the curious, distinct spotting of that species, nor do they have the distinctive small gill slits. Despite the greater proximity of the localities from which the Kansas specimens were taken to the area where *C. bishopi* occurs than to areas where *C. alleganiensis* has been recorded, the Kansas specimens cannot be identified with *C. bishopi*.

Unfortunately adequate comparative material of *C. alleganiensis* is lacking. The single specimen available (Univ. Kans. No. 19742), from Mammoth Cave, Edmonson Co., Kentucky, is discolored and distorted. No differences that could not be attributed to preservation are apparent upon comparison with the Kansas specimens however. Comparisons of the latter with published descriptions reveal no peculiarities. We therefore tentatively regard the specimens as typical *C. alleganiensis*.

#### *Ambystoma maculatum* (Shaw)

A fine adult male was taken in the basement of a house one mile north of Pittsburg, Crawford Co., Kansas. It is the second specimen known from the state and the only one with specific locality data.

Snout to anterior margin of vent, 77 mm.; tail 77 mm.; 12-13 costal grooves; dusky above and below, lighter below; a dorsolateral row of nine round light spots, the first row in contact with supra-orbital area; no markings whatever on ventral surface.

#### *Ambystoma texanum* (Matthes)

First Cow Creek, one mile west of Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 1256); and 9th Street in Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (now in Univ. Kans. Mus. Nat. Hist.)

#### *Bufo americanus americanus* (Holbrook)

Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 732). The absence of any representative of *Bufo woodhousii* in the collections from this area is of considerable interest. If present, the subspecies should be *B. w. fowleri*, a race not yet definitely recorded from the state.

*Hyla versicolor versicolor* (Le Conte)

Mt. Olive Cemetery, Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 7489).

*Rana areolata circulosa* Rice

Fairview Cemetery, Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 7489).

*Rana catesbeiana* Shaw

College Lake, campus of Pittsburg State Teachers College, Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 1414).

*Rana pipiens berlandieri* Baird

College Lake, campus of Pittsburg State Teachers College, Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 1415).

*Sternotherus odoratus* (Latreille)

Seven miles south of Pittsburg, near Highway 69, Crawford Co. (No. 3251).

*Kinosternon flavescens flavescens* (Agassiz)

Turkey Creek, one-half mile east of Mineral, Cherokee Co. (No. 6801); Pittsburg, Crawford Co.

*Macrochelys temminckii* (Troost)

No preserved specimen of this species from Kansas is available, but the senior author has seen an individual weighing 402 pounds taken about 1937 from the Neosho River in Cherokee Co., Kansas, a half mile east of Chetopa, Labette Co. It became the property of a man who for small fees exhibited it widely over the state. For a time it was at the State Fish Hatchery in Pratt. One other was taken at the same place but its history is unknown. A third specimen was dredged in relatively recent years from a canal off the Arkansas River in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, and according to Dr. C. W. Hibbard a picture of it was published in a Wichita paper. Further evidence of the occurrence in Kansas of this species is contained in Victor Housholder's unpublished dissertation (1915): "Mr. D. M. Bliss of Columbus, Cherokee County, Kansas, has in his possession two shells of this turtle, which he very kindly furnished me for examination. The larger specimen measures (carapace) 22 in. in length by 21 in. in height, and weighed 105 lbs. when caught. The other specimen measures 16 in. by 16 in. and weighed 65 lbs. when captured. The larger specimen was captured by Andrew Jarrett at Rocky Ford on the Neosho River in 1897, and the smaller one by Capt. Price at Baxter Springs on the Spring River in 1895 . . . I have personally taken this turtle at three different localities in the state; one was taken in the Neosho River in the summer of

1911 just below Neosho Park (Parsons); a second was taken in the Walnut River at Augusta in 1912; and a third in the Cottonwood River at Florence during the same summer."

Although no subsequent notice has been taken of it, this species was actually recorded from Kansas many years ago, in 1886, by Cragin (1886:212), who writes: "Prof. Snow adds to the Kansas fauna the Mississippi Snapper (*Mac. lacertina*), in the following note upon the largest turtle known to have been captured in the State: "Captured by Wm. Butler, May, 1885, two miles above Erie, in the Neosho River. Wt. 59 lbs. Length 47\* in. Length of carapace 20 in., breadth of same 16 in., circumference of head 18 in.,—of base of neck 17½ in.,—of narrowest part of neck 15 in."

"By his mention of its size we were reminded of the skull in Washburn cabinet, presented by Dr. Newlon, of a 34 lb. turtle taken from the Neosho at Oswego, a year since . . . The director of the Survey [Cragin] has now studied the specimen, which is *Macrochelys lacertina*, beyond a doubt."

The occurrence of this species as far north as southern Kansas in large tributaries of the Mississippi River such as the Arkansas River and its larger feeders including the Cottonwood, Neosho, Spring and Walnut rivers, is not to be considered extraordinary in view of its known habit of upstream migration three miles per year (see Pope, 1939:68) and in view of the verified occurrence of the species elsewhere as far north as central Illinois.

*Chelydra serpentina serpentina* (Linnaeus)

Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 942).

*Graptemys geographica* (Le Sueur)

Crawford Co. State Park, three miles north of Pittsburg (No. 286).

*Graptemys pseudogeographica pseudogeographica* (Gray)

Columbus, Cherokee Co., and Crawford Co. State Park, three miles north of Pittsburg (No. 477).

*Chrysemys picta bellii* (Gray)

Mineral Lake, Cherokee Co., and Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 802).

*Pseudemys scripta elegans* (Wied)

Four miles south of Columbus, Cherokee Co., and Crawford Co. State Park, 3 miles north of Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 806).

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\*Printed 27½, but corrected in ink, apparently by Cragin, as indicated by various other corrections throughout the volume.

*Amyda spinifera spinifera* (Le Sueur)

Tributary of Spring River 1 mile north of Riverton, Cherokee Co. (No. 1532); Pittsburg, Crawford Co.

*Crotaphytus collaris collaris* (Say)

One mile north of Columbus, Cherokee Co.; six miles north of Pittsburg, on Highway 69, Crawford Co. (No. 992).

*Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus* (Green)

Crawford Co. State Park, three miles north of Pittsburg (No. 698).

*Phrynosoma cornutum* (Harlan)

Columbus, Cherokee Co. (No. 699); Pittsburg, Crawford Co.

*Ophisaurus ventralis* (Linnaeus)

Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 391).

*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus* (Linnaeus)

Crawford Co. State Park, three miles north of Pittsburg (No. 707).

*Leiopisma laterale* (Say)

Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 1347).

*Eumeces fasciatus* (Linnaeus)

Farlington Lake, seven miles north of Girard, Crawford Co. (No. 846).

*Eumeces obsoletus* (Baird and Girard)

Farlington Lake, seven miles north of Girard, Crawford Co. (No. 847).

*Diadophis punctatus arnyi* (Kennicott)

Second Cow Creek, three miles east of Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 1314).

*Heterodon contortrix contortrix* (Linnaeus)

Two miles north of Weir, Cherokee Co.; Crawford Co. State Park, three miles north of Pittsburg (No. 245).

*Heterodon nasicus nasicus* (Baird and Girard)

One mile east of Arma (No. 292), and Pittsburg, Crawford Co.

*Opheodrys aestivus* (Linnaeus)

First Cow Creek, one mile west of Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 369).

*Opheodrys vernalis blanchardi* Grobman

Six miles west of Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 393).

*Coluber constrictor flaviventris* (Say)

Two miles south of Columbus, Cherokee Co. (No. 173); Pittsburg, Crawford Co.

*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta* (Say)

Scammon, Cherokee Co. (No. 199); three miles south of Pittsburg, Crawford Co.

*Pituophis catenifer sayi* (Schlegel)

Lowell, Cherokee Co. (No. 138); Pittsburg, Crawford Co.

*Lampropeltis calligaster calligaster* (Harlan)

Two miles east of Weir, Cherokee Co. (No. 302); Mt. Olive Cemetery, Pittsburg, Crawford Co.

*Lampropeltis getulus holbrooki* Stejneger

Columbus, Cherokee Co. (No. 349); Pittsburg, Crawford Co.

*Lampropeltis triangulum sypila* (Cope)

One mile east of Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 362).

*Sonora episcopa* (Kennicott)

Seven miles west of Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 11021).

*Natrix erythrogaster transversa* (Hallowell)

Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 1464).

*Natrix grahamii* (Baird and Girard)

Columbus, Cherokee Co.; Crawford Co. State Park, three miles north of Pittsburg (No. 1463).

*Natrix rhombifera rhombifera* (Hallowell)

Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 1462).

*Natrix sipedon sipedon* (Linnaeus)

Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 1461).

*Storeria dekayi texana* Trapido

Croweburg, nine miles north of Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 11022).

*Haldea striatula* (Linnaeus)

Second Cow Creek, six miles southeast of Pittsburg, Highway 54, Crawford Co. (two specimens).

Both specimens are males; one measures 233 mm. in total and 45 mm. in tail length, the other 185 mm. and 35 mm., respectively. Scale counts are, respectively: scale rows 17-17-17, 17-17-17; ventrals 128, 125; caudals 43, 44; supralabials 5-5, 5-4 (1st and 2nd fused); infralabials 6-6, 6-6; temporals 1-1, 1-1; preoculars 0-0, 0-0; postoculars 1-1, 1-1; internasals 1, 2 (in the latter specimen the

suture between the two scales is asymmetrically placed, and the left scale is considerably larger than the right).

*Thamnophis sauritus proximus* (Say)

Columbus, Cherokee Co.; Crawford Co. State Park, three miles north of Pittsburg (No. 761).

*Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis* (Say)

Lincoln Park, Pittsburg, Crawford Co. (No. 762).

*Tantilla gracilis* Baird and Girard

Radley, Crawford Co. (No. 4612).

*Agkistrodon mokeson mokeson* (Daudin)

Farlington Lake, seven miles north of Girard, Crawford Co. (No. 7480).

*Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma* (Troost)

A specimen of this race was found in the Neosho River in Cherokee County, due east of Chetopa, Labette Co. It was taken in 1937 in the period of floods that caused havoc generally throughout central United States. When the snake was obtained water was backing up in the river.

So far as we know this is the first specimen to have been found within the actual boundaries of the state. However, as long ago as 1904 Branson (1904:419) suggested that it might be a resident of southeastern Kansas. It has been recorded from several localities near Kansas in Oklahoma and Arkansas (Gloyd and Conant, 1943: 175, map 2), and the senior author has captured a specimen three-quarters of a mile east of the Kansas border on the Spring River in Jasper Co., Missouri. The latter specimen, like the first, is preserved in the collection of the Pittsburg State Teachers College. It may be of interest that this specimen, too, was taken in a flood period. These reports from localities near Kansas lead us to believe that more than one snake has probably been carried into the state by backwater, and that the species has become established within the boundaries of Kansas.

The snake from Kansas measures 870 mm. in total length, of which the tail comprises 130 mm. It is a male, with 25-23-23-19 scale rows (reduced to 24 rows at the 18th ventral, to 23 at the 20th), 137 ventrals, and 47+ caudals (about 3 to 5 caudals appear to be missing at the very tip of the tail). The loreal is absent. The specimen agrees with the characters of the race as defined by Gloyd and Conant (1943:164-165), although it is unusual in having 23 scale rows around the middle of the body.

*Sistrurus catenatus tergeminus* (Say)

Lightning Creek, 2 miles west of Girard, Crawford, Co. (No. 1929). Belly relatively light.

*Crotalus atrox* Baird and Girard

A specimen of this species (No. 5280) obtained six miles west of Pittsburg, Crawford Co., and another one mile north of Weir, Cherokee Co., verify the suspected occurrence of this species within the borders of the state. The first specimen cited is now mounted and on display in the museum of Pittsburg State Teachers College. These localities are approximately 150 miles from the northern boundary of the range of the species as previously outlined, and is surprising for, although the terrain is flat and open, the rainfall is heavier than in most parts of the previously known range of the species. Nevertheless, reports have come to one of us (Hall) of what we regard as the same species from a still more eastern locality, in Greene Co. of southwestern Missouri.

It was suspected that the first specimens from Kansas would come from farther west, in Barber Co., because John R. Breukelman of Emporia State Teachers College obtained three specimens in Woods Co., Oklahoma, three-fourths mile south of the Kansas line south of Aetna, Barber Co., Kansas. Furthermore, ranchers in that area of Kansas recognize the southern species as distinct from the common prairie species and say that both occur there.

*Crotalus horridus horridus* Linnaeus

Farlington Lake, seven miles north of Girard, Crawford Co. (No. 7291).

*Crotalus viridis viridis* Rafinesque

A specimen (No. 6583) taken seven miles west of Pittsburg near Fleming, Crawford Co., represents the easternmost locality known for the species.

## LITERATURE CITED

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