

A Tribute To Philip W. Smith

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Philip W. Smith was a life-long friend, and his knowledge of herptiles and fishes of Illinois was unexcelled. He was a naturalist of high repute, having spent many decades conducting fieldwork in Illinois, the southwestern United States, and Mexico.

Philip W. Smith, known as 'Phil', passed away on Saturday, 11 October 1986, after a bout with cancer. He was born near Neoga, Illinois on 2 December 1921, the son of Ward and Pauline Brown Smith. His family moved often, and he attended grammar school in several communities in southcentral Illinois.

Early in his childhood he became an abiding naturalist interested in birds and entomology, and shifted to herpetology by the young age of 16 years. It was during this period that he met his future wife, Dorothy M. Dearnbarger.

In 1940 Phil started his college education at Eastern Illinois Teachers College at Charleston, working as a section hand for the Pennsylvania Railroad during the summer months. In 1942 he went to work at Ridge Lake Field Laboratory near Charleston, and this began his close relationship with the Illinois Natural History Survey.

On May 23, 1942 Phil and Dorothy were married in Shelbyville, Illinois. Shortly thereafter Phil was inducted into the Army, and served until his discharge in December of 1945. After his discharge he immediately returned to school at Eastern.

In June of 1947 Phil became Junior Scientific and Technical Assistant for the Illinois Natural History Survey and served in this capacity until 1952. It was during this period that Phil published his first papers on the reptiles and amphibians of eastcentral Illinois. It was also during this period that Phil came under the guidance of Hobart M. Smith at the University of Illinois. Phil completed his BS Degree in February of 1948, and his MS Degree in September of 1949, under the supervision of Hobart M. Smith and other distinguished University of Illinois scientists, Victor Shelford, Charles Kendeigh and Harley Van Cleave. After completion of his PhD in June 1953, Phil was hired by Herbert H. Ross as Assistant Taxonomist in the Section of Faunistic Surveys & Insect

Identification at the Illinois Natural History Survey. His last decade with the Survey consisted mainly of administrative duties while holding the position as Head of the Section of Faunistic Surveys and Insect Identification. Phil also served as Professor of Zoology at the University of Illinois from 1965 until 1979.

Phil was gracious and friendly, always generous in helping others. He was a prolific worker in an extraordinarily broad range of both herp and fish subjects relating to systematics, animal behavior, evolution and ecology. He was Editor-in-Chief of COPEIA in 1959, and Vice President of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) in 1966. Phil also served on the ASIH Board of Governors for three separate terms (1958-1976) and on the ASIH Long-Range Planning Committee from 1971-1974. He was President of the Herpetologists League for both 1966 and 1967, and for that society also served on the Executive Council and Editorial Boards of its journal HERPETOLOGICA. In August of 1986, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Eastern Illinois University.

Phil made numerous contributions to the field of herpetology; in fact, he published more than 20 papers as a graduate student. His monumental work, the "Amphibians and Reptiles of Illinois" appeared in 1961. Phil changed fields from herpetology to Ichthyology, and his book "The Fishes of Illinois" appeared in 1979. For 39 years he published over 100 scholarly journal articles on fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and bats. His last work was a book, "A Naturalist in the Environmental Crisis," which traces his life from childhood through his professional career. His lifelong love of nature and high respect for preservation of our vastly dwindling wildlife is reflected in this highly interesting book. Anyone interested in nature or having associated with Phil and Dorothy will find this book a must for their library.

On December 2, 1986, Dorothy received a letter of condolences from Michael J. Madigan, Speaker of the House of Representatives for the state of Illinois. Phil is survived by his wife Dorothy, daughter April, and two grandchildren, Suzanne and Langston Hoffman. Many of us lost a good friend, and the herpetological and ichthyological communities have lost a true professional.

The following is a complete list of the scientific publications of Philip W. Smith.

PUBLICATIONS OF PHILIP W. SMITH

1. 1947. The reptiles and amphibians of eastern central Illinois. Bull. Chicago Acad. Sci. 8(2):21-40.
2. 1947. The reptiles and amphibians of eastern central Illinois. Bull. Ecol. Soc. Amer. 28(4):53.
3. 1948. A cestode infestation in *Typhlotriton*. Herpetologica 4:152.
4. 1948. Food habits of cave dwelling amphibians. Herpetologica 4:205-208.
5. 1948. Noteworthy herpetological records from Illinois. Chicago Acad. Sci. Nat. Hist. Misc. 33:1-4.
6. 1949. Notable records of reptiles and amphibians in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. J. Tenn. Acad. Sci. 24(2):130-134 (by W.L. Burger, P.W. Smith & H.M. Smith).

7. 1949. Handbook of frogs and toads (Review). *Herpetologica* 5:77-78.
8. 1950. Additional noteworthy herpetological records for Illinois. *Chicago Acad. Sci. Nat. Hist. Misc.* 56:1-3 (by P.W. Smith & W.L. Burger).
9. 1950. *Thecadactylus rapicaudus* in Honduras. *Herpetologica* 6:55.
10. 1950. Herpetological results of the University of Illinois Field Expedition, Spring 1949. III. Sauria. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.* 53(2):165-175 (by P.W. Smith & W.L. Burger).
11. 1950. Mexican and Central American garter snakes (*Thamnophis*) in the British Museum (Natural History). *J. Linnean Soc. Lond.* 41(282):571-584. (by H.M. Smith, C.W. Nixon & P.W. Smith).
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13. 1950. The coloration of the tail tip of young fer-de-lances: sexual dimorphism rather than adaptive coloration. *Science* 112(2911):431-433. (by W.L. Burger & P.W. Smith).
14. 1951. A new snake (*Tantilla*) from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.* 64:97-100 (by H.M. Smith & P.W. Smith).
15. 1951. A new lizard (*Sceloporus*) from Oaxaca, Mexico. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.* 64:101-104 (by P.W. Smith & H.M. Smith).
16. 1951. A new frog and a new turtle from the western Illinois sand Prairies. *Bull. Chicago Acad. Sci.* 9(10):189-199.
17. 1951. The marbled salamander, *Ambystoma opacum* (Gravenhorst), in Michigan. *Copeia* 1951(4):309. (by H.D. Walley & P.W. Smith).
18. 1952. Geographic variation in the lizard *Eumeces anthracinus*. *Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull.* 34(11):679-694 (by P.W. Smith & H.M. Smith).
19. 1952. The relationships of the chorus frogs, *Pseudacris nigrita feriarum* and *P. n. triseriata*. *Amer. Midl. Nat.* 48(1):165-180 (by P.W. & D.M. Smith).
20. 1952. Notes on a collection of amphibians and reptiles from eastern Mexico. *Texas J. Sci.* 4(2):251-260. (by P.W. Smith, H.M. Smith & J.E. Werler).
21. 1952. Notas sobre algunos anfibios y reptiles colectados en el Estado de Chiapas. *Anales del Inst. de Biol.* 22(2):557-564 (by P.W. Smith & H.M. Smith).
22. 1952. A new toad from the highlands of Guatemala and Chiapas. *Copeia* 1952 (3):175-177.
23. 1952. Results of a herpetological collection from eastern Central Mexico. *Herpetologica* 8:81-86 (by P.W. Smith & D.M. Darling).
24. 1952. A distributional and variational study of the adult amphibians of Illinois (thesis abstract). Priv. printed. 4 pp.
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27. 1953. A reconsideration of the status of *Hyla phaeocrypta*. *Herpetologica* 9:169-173.
28. 1954. A rare snake anomaly. *Amer. Midl. Nat.* 51(1):312-313. (by J.C. List & P.W. Smith).
29. 1954. Notes on the distribution and habits of some bats in Illinois. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.* 57(2):200-205 (by P.W. Smith & P.W. Parmalee).

30. 1954. The bats of Illinois. The Living Museum 16(6):523-526. (by P.W. Parmalee & P.W. Smith).
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32. 1955. Presumed hybridization of two species of box turtles. Chicago Acad. Sci. Nat. Hist. Misc. 146:1-3.
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36. 1956. A blotch-count gradient in snakes. Herpetologica 12:156-160.
37. 1956. The status, correct name, and geographic range of the boreal chorus frog. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 69:169-176.
38. 1956. Extension of the known range of the flat-headed snake. Herpetologica 12:327.
39. 1957. The number of species per genus in different animal classes in Illinois. Ill. Acad. Sci. Trans. 49:165-171.
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43. 1957. A distributional summary of the herpetofauna of Indiana and Illinois. Amer. Midl. Nat. 58(2):341-351 (by P.W. Smith & S.A. Minton, Jr.).
44. 1958. Notes on a small collection of amphibians and reptiles from the vicinity of the Pinacate Lava Cap in northwestern Sonora, Mexico. Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci. 61(1):64-76 (by P.W. Smith & M.M. Hensley).
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47. 1959. Noteworthy records of amphibians and reptiles from eastern Mexico. Herpetologica 15:27-29 (D.A. Langebartel & P.W. Smith).
48. 1959. Distributional survey IV: Illinois. Bull. Phila. Herpetol. Soc. 7(3):14-19 (by P.W. Smith & H.M. Smith).
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