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A RANGE EXTENSION OF THE EASTERN BOX TURTLE (TERRAPENE CAROLINA) IN ILLINOIS

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ABSTRACT.--This paper presents a record of the Eastern Box Turtle (Terrapene carolina) outside of it's previously delineated range in Illinois.

Recently I have had an opportunity to examine some specimens of the Eastern Box Turtle (Terrapene carolina) from a woodland area in Sec. 10 & 11, T 10 N, R 5 W, Morgan County, Illinois. This location is outside the range for the species delineated by Smith (1961). This location is approximately 35 miles north of that range and 40 miles east.

Smith (1961) states that certain records of this turtle in Illinois must be disregarded due to the possibility that they were transported into areas by humans and allowed to escape. It is difficult to determine the status of this species because of this record's proximity to the natural range and also due to the ease at which specimens could have been translocated. However, this species has apparently been successfully reproducing because of the wide variation of size of the specimens and one juvenile.

The series of specimens collected were of variable sizes, with females (5) ranging 122-151 ($\bar{X}$=138) and males (5) ranging 94-143 ($\bar{X}$=129). All measurements are carapace lengths in mm's. All specimens were collected, studied and released unharmed where they were taken because of a concern over the conservation of reptiles.

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LITERATURE CITED

Smith, P. W. 1961. Amphibians and Reptiles of Illinois. Bull. Ill. Natural Hist. Survey 28:1-298.