HERPETOLOGICAL RECORDS FROM NORTHCENTRAL ILLINO

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ABSTRACT. — Twenty-one species (one salamander, five anurans, three turtles, and 12 snakes) were recorded in four years of collecting near Normal in northcentral Illinois. This impoverished herpetofauna no doubt reflects the fact that agricultural crops have largely replaced the original vegetation of the area.

Much of Illinois has been intensively studied herpetologically (Smith, 1961), but little has been recorded recently concerning the highly agricultural northcentral part of the state. For this reason I have made concentrated efforts to collect amphibians and reptiles from localities near Normal, Illinois during a four year period from September, 1961 through September, 1965. Sixty-two collecting trips (each of about two to three hours duration) were taken as follows: 1961(3), 1962(20), 1963(4), 1964(13), and 1965(22). Most trips were taken in the months of April, May, and June. Several casual trips were not recorded. Herpetological records for the area date back to those of Garman (1892), thus it is possible to note apparent changes that have taken place in the herpetofauna during the past 73 years. The most recently published records of the herpetofauna of the area are those of Smith (op. cit.) in his comprehensive study of the amphibians and reptiles of Illinois.

The localities studied lie in the Bloomington Ridged Plain physiographic division of Illinois (Leighton et. al., 1948) and in the Grand Prairie herpetofaunal division of Smith (op. cit.). Almost all of the original prairie vegetation is now under cultivation. Thus, most collecting sites are road shoulders, railroad rights-of-ways, vacant lots, artificial ponds and lakes, and a few oak-woodlands found mainly along the Mackinaw River in the northern part of the area, and along Sugar Creek and Kickapoo Creek in the southwestern part.

A list of localities follows. Localiti 1-16 are in McLean County, Locality is in Logan County, Locality 18 is DeWitt County: (1) 4 miles west Bloomington, (2) Clarksville, (Downs, (4) Funk's Grove, (5) He worth, (6) 3 miles east of Heywort (7) Hudson, (8) Lake Bloomington, (Lexington, (10) McLean County Conse vation Area, (11) Normal, (12) 2 mil northeast of Normal, (13) 2.5 mil southeast of Stanford, (14) 5 mil southeast of Stanford, (15) near Mi dle Fork of Sugar Creek, 3 miles nort east of Stanford, (16) Towanda, (1 near Sugar Creek, 5.6 miles west of M Lean, (18) Wapella.

Herpetological records from this stud and from previous studies in the are are summarized in TABLE 1. The fac that nine species previously reporte were not taken during the present stud leads me to believe that a rather larg portion of the original herpetofauna i rare or has become extinct. This n doubt reflects the fact that the origina vegetation of the area has largely bee replaced by agricultural crops.

The three available *Lampropeltis triangulum* (Lacépède) specimens from McLean County appear to be intergrade between *L. t. triangulum* (Lacépède and *L. t. syspila* (Cope). Smith (op. cit p. 176 and p. 221 fig. 208) discusses char acters that differentiate the two sub species, and he indicates that they inter grade in approximately the southern one-half of the area studied. The speci men from Locality 10 may be closer to *syspila* than to *triangulum* in that it has 34 brown dorsal blotches that extend to scale rows 1 and 2. A juvenile speci men from Locality 2 is possibly closer to *triangulum* than to *syspila* in that it has 51 reddish-brown dorsal blotches that extend down to scale rows 3 and 4. A newly hatched specimen from Locality 1 has 44 reddish dorsal blotches that extend down to scale row 3.

TABLE 1.—Records of Amphibians and Reptiles from Northcentral Illinois. C, common, O, occasional, R, rare. Last records are from Garman (1892), Dunn 918), and Smith (1961).

Species	Last Record	Localities of the Present Study																	
		4 mi. W. Bloomington	Clarksville	Downs	Funk's Grove	Heyworth	3 mi. E. Heyworth	Hudson	Lake Bloomington	Lexington	McLean Cons. Area	Normal	2 mi. NE. Normal	2.5 mi. SE. Stanford	5 mi. SE. Stanford	Mid. Sugar	Towanda	5,6 mi. W. McLean	Wapella
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Ambystoma texanum (Matthes)	1961																		
Ambystoma t. tigrinum (Green)	1961						R												
Notophthalmus viridescens (Rafinesque)	1918																		
Bufo a. americanus Holbrook	1961		C					C	C	C	C	C							
Acris crepitans blanchardi Harper	1961					C			C		C	C							
Hyla v. versicolor LeConte	1961																		
Pseudacris t. triseriata (Wied)	1961		C						C			C				C			
Rana catesbeiana Shaw	1961				C			C	C			C							
Rana pipiens Schreber	1961								C			C							
Chelydra s. serpentina (Linnaeus)	1961											O							
Emydoidea blandigi (Holbrook)	1892																		
Chrysemys picta (Schneider)	1961								C			O							
Trionyx s. spinifer Le Sueur	1961								O									R	
Ophisaurus a. attenuatus (Cope)	1892																		
Opheodrys vernalis blanchardi Grobman	1961													R					
Coluber constrictor flaviventris Say	1961																	R	
Elaphe o. obsoleta (Say)	1961																		R
Elaphe v. vulpina (Baird and Girard)	1961		C		C				C	C	C	C					C		
Pituophis melanoleucus sayi (Schlegel)	1961										R								
Lampropeltis c. calligaster (Harlan)	1961				C										C			C	
Lampropeltis triangulum (Lacépède)	1892	R	R								R								
Thamnophis proximus (Say)	1961																		
Thamnophis r. radix (Baird and Girard)	1961							C	C		C	C	C	C				C	
Thamnophis s. sirtalis (Linnaeus)	1961		C	C	C				C			C						C	
Storeria dekayi wrightorum Trapido	1961		C		C				C			C							
Storeria o. occipitomaculata (Storer)	1892																		
Clonophis kirtlandi (Kennicott)	1961								R										
Natrix grahami (Baird and Girard)	1961																		
Natrix s. sipedon (Linnaeus)	1961								C		C							C	
Sistrurus c. catenatus (Rafinesque)	1892																		

Smith (op. cit. p. 233-234) lists characters of the two Illinois subspecies of *Thamnophis sirtalis* (Linnaeus) and he indicates that *T. s. sirtalis* (Linnaeus) intergrades with *T. s. semifasciata* (Cope) in the northern part of McLean County, but that there is no intergradation just south of Bloomington and Normal. In the 14 specimens at hand from Locality 17 I find that the black crossbars that interrupt the lateral stripes anteriorly are prominent in 5, weak in 6, and absent in 3. Thus, it seems that the *semifasciata* influence may extend farther south than indicated by Smith. A red pigment in the groundcolor was present in all three specimens collected from Locality 4 and occurs now and then in other populations in the area (see Smith, op. cit. p. 231-232 for a discussion of this red pigmentation).

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