
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF ILLINOIS

H. K. GLOYD

Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Illinois

Knowledge of the amphibians and reptiles of Illinois is inadequate for a satisfactory discussion of the status of these groups in the state at the present time. According to available data, about one hundred species and subspecies are known to occur within the boundaries of the state. The number of forms representing the orders of Amphibia and Reptilia are as follows: Caudata 19; Salientia 14; Squamata 46 (lizards 6, snakes 40); Testudinata 21. Some of these must be regarded as doubtful until their presence is verified by carefully determined specimens. There are no endemic forms.

The portions of the state best known herpetologically are the southern and northeastern. The central and northwestern areas are poorly represented by specimens in collections and published reports.

As would be expected from the geographic position of Illinois and the

nature of its natural vegetation (chiefly grassland-deciduous forest transition) there is a mingling of prairie and woodland species, the former with affinities toward the west and the latter toward the east and south.

Of special interest are a few western species (of which *Heterodon nasicus* is a notable example) which are regarded as relicts of a population formerly more widely distributed, and associated with a probable postglacial eastward extension of the steppe in North America (Schmidt, 1938, *Ecology*, 19:396-407).

A cooperative study of the herpetofauna of Illinois is being initiated by the State Natural History Survey Division and the Chicago Academy of Sciences. Anyone interested in giving assistance in the form of specimens or records is invited to correspond with one or the other of these organizations.