

NEW AND UPDATED RECORDS FOR AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN MINNESOTA, USA

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ABSTRACT: Following the publication of the revised edition of "Amphibians and Reptiles in Minnesota" by Moriarty and Hall (2014), we accessioned several new or updated records at the Bell Museum of Natural History (JFBM). Records include digital photographs (accession number preceded by "P") and audio recordings (accession number preceded by "AUD"). In addition, a subset of these observations were accessioned in www.HerpMapper.org. HerpMapper accession numbers are preceded by "HM" and can be viewed online. Benjamin Lowe verified species determinations. Latitude and longitude coordinates are based on datum WGS 84.

CAUDATA - SALAMANDERS

New and updated county records for three species of Minnesota salamander are reported herein. Both *Ambystoma laterale* records represent new county records, and occur at the western edge of this species' overall distribution (Petranka 2010). The single record for *Ambystoma tigrinum* represents both a new county record, and a greater than 75 km range extension for this species into northeastern Minnesota (Moriarty and Hall 2014). *Necturus maculosus* were recently listed as special concern by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR 2013), which prompted statewide surveys for this species to assess their conservation status and needs. These surveys have produced the following new and updated county records. Note that some *N. maculosus* records represent the first capture of this species from a particular bank of a river that serves as the county border where it is known from the bordering county, while other captures represent range extensions that are considerable distances from previously known occurrences.

Ambystoma laterale (Blue-spotted Salamander). MAHNOMEN Co.: East of Bass Lake (47.22183°N, 95.55656°W). 27 July 2011. New county record.

K.A. Larson and Larry A. Larson. JFBM P480. ROSEAUCO Co.: Beltrami Island State Forest, off River Forest Road (48.64032°N, 95.48164°W). 24 August 2014. New county record. Judy Marshall. JFBM P488.

Ambystoma tigrinum (Eastern Tiger Salamander). CARLTON Co.: Southeast of the City of Duluth, within Jay Cooke State Park (46.65236°N, 92.38152°W). 14 October 2014. New county record. Emily Ujifusa. JFBM P489.

Necturus maculosus (Mudpuppy). CLEARWATER Co.: Clearwater River, north of Carver Lake (47.77485°N, 95.35173°W). 31 October 2013. New county record. K.A. Larson. JFBM P481. DAKOTA Co.: Mississippi River at the City of Hastings (44.75673°N, 92.86608°W). 15 November 2012. Updated county record. K.A. Larson. JFBM P482. REDWOOD Co.: Minnesota River north of the City of Redwood Falls (44.57144°N, 95.07802°W). 15 October 2014. New county record. K.A. Larson. JFBM P483. SCOTT Co.: Minnesota River north of the City of Jordan (44.69248°N, 93.64147°W). 09 May 2013. Updated county record. K.A. Larson. JFBM P484. WABASHA Co.: Mississippi River west of Alma, Wisconsin

(44.32104°N, 91.92115°W). 29 November 2012. New county record. K.A. Larson. JFBM P485. WILKIN Co.: Mouth of Otter Tail River at the City of Breckenridge (46.26413°N, 96.59801°W). 21 November 2013. New county record. K.A. Larson. JFBM P486.

ANURA – FROGS

Observations representing new and updated county records for seven species of Minnesota frogs are reported below. For several of these records, audio recordings are available online through www.HerpMapper.org. Two records for *Hyla chrysoscelis* represent the western extent of the documented distribution for this species in Minnesota (Moriarty and Hall 2014). However, Kiesow (2006) reports *H. chrysoscelis* from eastern South Dakota, and authors (CES and JBL) have also documented this species in eastern North Dakota making it likely that this species occurs in additional areas of western Minnesota. Despite their occurrence in Ramsey County (a major metropolitan area), *Hyla chrysoscelis*, *Hyla versicolor*, and *Lithobates clamitans* had not been properly documented previously. The two updated county records for *Lithobates pipiens* originate from two counties that receive relatively little herpetofaunal survey work. The single updated county record for *Lithobates septentrionalis* can be viewed on HerpMapper. Two new county records for *Lithobates sylvaticus* are reported from the west-central periphery of its Minnesota distribution, and occur well within the prairie region of the state. Four new and one updated county records are reported for *Pseudacris maculata*, filling in several gaps for one of Minnesota's most common species of frog.

Hyla chrysoscelis (Cope's Gray Treefrog). CHIPPEWA Co.: Northeast of city of Milan (45.12427°N, 95.89890°W). 27 June 2012. New county record. J.B. LeClere. JFBM AUD21. LAC QUI PARLE Co.: South of Minnesota River (45.12452°N, 96.07021°W). 21 June 2012. New county record. J.B. LeClere. JFBM AUD22. RAMSEY Co.: City of Vadnais Heights (45.04586°N, 93.07330°W). 20 June 2013. New county record. C.E. Smith. JFBM AUD14. HM 2159.

Hyla versicolor (Gray Treefrog). RAMSEY Co.: City of Vadnais Heights (45.04586°N, 93.07330°W). 20 June 2013. Updated county record. C.E. Smith. JFBM AUD13. HM 2161.

Lithobates clamitans (Green Frog). RAMSEY Co.: City of Vadnais Heights (45.05933°N, 93.10623°W). 24 July 2011. Updated county record. J.B. LeClere. JFBM P490.

Lithobates pipiens (Northern Leopard Frog). SIBLEY Co.: Southwest of city of Gibbon (44.47054°N, 94.56568°W). 30 August 2011. Updated county record. J.B. LeClere. JFBM P491. STEVENS Co.: South of city of Morris (45.44670°N, 95.91186°W). 31 August 2011. Updated county record. J.B. LeClere. JFBM P492.

Lithobates septentrionalis (Mink Frog). COOK Co.: Karl Lake (48.01977°N, 90.76329°W). 24 July 2010. Updated county record. Curtis Hart. JFBM P464. HM 8913.

Lithobates sylvaticus (Wood Frog). CHIPPEWA Co.: Lac

qui Parle Wildlife Management Area (45.12292°N, 95.99586°W). 24 April 2014. New county record. J.B. LeClere. JFBM AUD23. TRAVERSE Co.: Tintah, Minnesota (46.01357°N, 96.32560°W). 25 April 2014. New county record. C.E. Smith and E.P. Hoaglund. JFBM AUD18. HM 31200.

Pseudacris maculata (Boreal Chorus Frog). BLUE EARTH Co.: Southwest of the City of Lake Crystal (44.04331°N, 94.24525°W). 15 June 2013. New county record. C.E. Smith. JFBM AUD15. HM 2158. LE SUEUR Co.: East side of Minnesota River, across from the City of Saint Peter (44.31822°N, 93.94954°W). 19 April 2014. New county record. C.E. Smith. JFBM AUD16. HM 31055. REDWOOD Co.: Swede's Forest (44.69110°N, 95.35898°W). 13 May 2013. New county record. C.E. Smith. JFBM AUD20. HM 2138. SIBLEY Co.: West of Minnesota River, west of Blakeley, Minnesota (44.61700°N, 93.86558°W). 19 April 2014. New county record. C.E. Smith. JFBM AUD19. HM 31056. TRAVERSE Co.: Tintah, Minnesota (46.01357°N, 96.32560°W). 25 April 2014. Updated county record. C.E. Smith and E.P. Hoaglund. JFBM AUD17. HM 31199.

TESTUDINES – TURTLES

Due to their relatively large size and ease of observation, Minnesota's turtle species are relatively well surveyed. Reports from the general public and citizen scientists provided many of the records below, including a new county record for the state-threatened *Emydoidea blandingii*. In order to protect this imperiled species, its latitude and longitude are limited to the tenths decimal place. Photographs are available online through www.HerpMapper.org for some of the records. A single new county record is included for each of Minnesota's two native *Apalone* species; both observations help fill gaps in their distributions. A single observation of *Chelydra serpentina* from Lac qui Parle County fills one of the last remaining data gaps for this species in the southern half of the state. The single new county record for *Chrysemys picta* represents the northeastern most record for this species in Minnesota to date. A new county record for *Graptemys geographica* from Brown County helps fill a gap between Yellow Medicine County and Nicollet County along the Minnesota River. *Graptemys geographica* likely occurs throughout much of the upper Minnesota River but data are lacking for several counties. The *Graptemys ouachitensis* record from Wabasha County updates an older record (pre-1960; Moriarty and Hall 2014), while the observation from Anoka County represents a new county record extending this species' distribution northward by over 25 km along the Mississippi River, and creates a data gap for Hennepin and Ramsey counties. Two records for the introduced *Trachemys scripta* are reported. One record is from a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' fisheries pond located in an urban environment with easy public access. The other was observed within the City of Winona in southeastern Minnesota. *Trachemys scripta* has been documented in Winona in the past, but specimens or photographs have not been accessioned into a Museum (Cochran et al. 2006). In addition, this species has been documented to successfully overwinter at the Winona site (A. B. Sheldon, personal communication) and elsewhere in Minnesota (LeClere 2012). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recently added this species to its list of "Regulated Invasive Species" under Minn. R. 6216.0260 (2014).

Apalone mutica (Smooth Softshell). CARVER Co.: Minnesota River north of Jordan. *A. mutica* were captured in traps and observed basking on sandy shorelines along both sides of this meandering river (44.69380°N, 93.64540°W). 29 May 2014. New county record from the bank of a river that serves as the county border, but known from the bordering county. C.D. Hall and Margaret Edwards. JFBM P495.

Apalone spinifera (Spiny Softshell Turtle). MEEKER Co.: Spring Lake at the City of Dassel (45.08758°N, 94.30080°W). 30 July 2013. New county record. Frank Ziegler. JFBM P468. HM 37193.

Emydoidea blandingii (Blanding's Turtle). OTTER TAIL Co.: East of the City of New York Mills (46.5°N, 95.3°W). 30 May 2014. New county record. Butch Teberg. JFBM P476.

Chelydra serpentina (Snapping Turtle). LAC QUI PARLE Co.: West of Minnesota River (45.15480°N, 96.05944°W). 28 July 2011. New county record. J.B. LeClere. JFBM P493.

Chrysemys picta (Painted Turtle). COOK Co.: Ham Lake (48.06703°N, 90.80490°W). 5 July 2011. New county record. Mike Pingleton. JFBM P467. HM 24341.

Graptemys geographica (Northern Map Turtle). BROWN Co.: Minnesota River at Riverside Park in the City of New Ulm (44.31623°N, 94.45227°W). 31 August 2013. New county record from the bank of a river that serves as the county border, but known from the bordering county. Tom Jessen. JFBM P457.

Graptemys ouachitensis (Ouachita Map Turtle). ANOKA Co.: Mississippi River at Islands of Peace Regional Park (45.07531°N, 93.27696°W). 18 May 2011. New county record. Joseph Beck. JFBM P456. WABASHA Co.: Mississippi River (44.26318°N, 91.90791°W). 6 May 2011. Updated county record. J.B. LeClere. JFBM P494.

Trachemys scripta (Pond Slider). RAMSEY Co.: Saint Paul, Fish Hatchery Road (44.94428°N, 93.04774°W). 22 May 2014. Introduced species - new county record. Jim Levitt. JFBM P475. WINONA Co.: City of Winona (44.03645°N, 91.61650°W). 1 May 2013. Introduced species - new county record. Allen Blake Sheldon. JFBM P477.

SQUAMATA – SNAKES

New and updated county records for seven species of Minnesota snakes are reported below. For a few of these records, photographs are available online through www.HerpMapper.org. A single new county record for *Diadophis punctatus* represents a 15 km range extension for this species. In addition, this locality is separated from populations in adjacent counties by large-scale agriculture and urbanization. Two updated county records are reported for *Heterodon nasicus*. *Heterodon nasicus* is listed as special concern in Minnesota (MNDNR 2013), its natural history and conservation needs are actively being studied in Minnesota (Hoaglund and Smith 2012, LeClere and Hall - unpublished data). A single new locality for *Lampropeltis triangulum* represents the western-

most documented location in Minnesota. Several individuals representing multiple age classes were observed at this site. A single observation for *Pituophis catenifer*, which is listed as special concern in Minnesota, is also included below. The *Pituophis catenifer* record is an older observation (1995), but was only recently accessioned into the JFBM collection. Unfortunately much of this area has been developed into suburban neighborhoods, and observations of *P. catenifer* from this area are now uncommon. A single updated county record for *Storeria occipitomaculata* helps fill a gap for this species between Isanti and Aitkin counties. Two new county records, one for *Thamnophis radix*, fills a gap in a largely agricultural area of Minnesota, and another for *Thamnophis sirtalis* fills one of the last remaining counties in Minnesota without an observation for this widespread species.

Diadophis punctatus (Ring-necked Snake). OLMSTED Co.: Southeast of the town of Chester (43.98846°N, 92.31703°W). 13 June 2013. New county record. C.D. Hall. JFBM P496.

Heterodon nasicus (Plains Hog-nosed Snake). BIGSTONE Co.: Hornstein Wildlife Management Area (45.51631°N, 96.75304°W). 16 May 2014. Updated county record. Dave Trauba and J.B. LeClere. JFBM P497. CHIPPEWA Co.: Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area (45.14492°N, 96.00870°W). 7 October 2014. Updated county record. J.B. LeClere. JFBM P498.

Lampropeltis triangulum (Eastern Milksnake). YELLOW MEDICINE Co.: City of Granite Falls (44.80262°N, 95.54856°W). 13 May 2013. New county record. C.E. Smith and E.P. Hoaglund. JFBM P452. HM 2120.

Pituophis catenifer (Gophersnake). CARVER Co.: Northwest of Rice Lake (44.81406°N, 93.53228°W). 14 May 1995. Updated county record. J.B. LeClere and Randy E. Blasus. JFBM P499.

Storeria occipitomaculata (Red-bellied Snake). KANABEC Co.: North of Kroschel, Minnesota (46.09584°N, 93.07570°W). 27 September 2012. Updated county record. C.E. Smith and E.P. Hoaglund. JFBM P479.

Thamnophis radix (Plains Gartersnake). RENVILLE Co.: City of Renville (44.78912°N, 95.17872°W). 13 May 2013. New county record. C.E. Smith and E.P. Hoaglund. JFBM P466. HM 2128.

Thamnophis sirtalis (Common Gartersnake). KANABEC Co.: Lake Five Wildlife Management Area (46.14189°N, 93.13420°W). 27 September 2012. New county record. C.E. Smith and E.P. Hoaglund. JFBM P478.

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