THAMNOPSIS MARCIANUS (Checkered Garter Snake). SALVAGING PREENEONATE FROM A ROAD-KILL. The results of salvaging unborn or preneonate young of natricine snakes from road-killed gravid females does not seem to be recorded in the literature. Pope (1952, Snakes Alive and How They Live, The Viking Press, New York, 238 pp.) suggested that the young of a gravid female live-bearing snake, cut open a few days before normal birth, would survive, and that snakes are often killed with enough force to set any well developed young free. Oliver (1955, The Natural History of North American Amphibians and Reptiles, V. Van Nostrand Co., Princeton, New Jersey, 359 pp.) agreed, commenting that if a female carrying young about to hatch, was vigorously clubbed, her swollen body might burst, releasing the young. Accounts of unborne young surviving their mother’s death are exemplified by J. T. Burkhart (pers. comm.) who related an account of a Thamnophis sp. being run over by a vehicle, expelling numerous young that subsequently crawled away.

This is a report on salvaging preneonate young from a road-killed checkered garter snake, Thamnophis marcellus. The specimen was collected from Willow Road in extreme northwestern Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma, USA at 2059 h (after dark) on 29 September 1995. Abdominal movement was observed in the snake that did not seem to be characteristic reflex action. The snake was hurriedly opened surgically at 2110 h, and 25 preneonate young were removed by 2233 h. Seven young exhibited life signs such as mouth gaping, tongue flickering, and body movements.

The total length of the parent female was 65.5 cm. (SVL 51.2 cm, tail 14.3 cm). Three of the 25 young were accidentally mutilated during hasty surgery, and were not measurable, another remained in its embryonic sac and was not measured. Total lengths of 21 remaining young varied from 15.1 to 20.4 cm, averaging 17.9 cm. Total lengths of the five surviving live young was 17.0 to 20.4 cm, averaging 10.0 cm. Three of these died by 23 December 1995. Two remaining juveniles have survived.

Specimens were deposited in the museum collections of St. Gregory’s University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, SGU numbers 510 (adult female), and young 511–528, 534, 560 and 2038.

Submitted by RICHARD L. LARDE, P.O. Box 9002, Vance AFB, Enid, Oklahoma 73705, USA.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Instructions for contributors to Geographic Distribution appear in Volume 34, Number 2 (June 2003). Additional note: The responsibility for checking literature for previously documented range extensions lies with authors. Do not submit range extensions unless a thorough literature review has been completed.

CAUDATA


Submitted by CHRISTOPHER S. HOBSON (e-mail: cshobson@dcr.state.va.us) and STEVEN M. ROBLE (e-mail: srob@dc.state.va.us), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage, 217 Governor Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, USA.


Submitted by KURT J. REGESTER and DAVID W. BUTLER, Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois 62901, USA.

CRYPTOBANCHUS ALLEGANENSIS ALLEGANENSIS (Eastern Hellbender). USA: TENNESSEE: CHEATHAM Co.; Sycamore Creek adjacent to Harris Town Road, ca. 4.0 air miles NW of Ashland City (36°19’39"N, 87°05’40"W), 10 July 1996. Brian Canada. Austin Peay State University Museum of Zoology (APUS 5455 B series of 10 color photos). Verified by David H. Snyder. One adult (total length 727 mm) in shallow water (< 10

Submitted by CAROL A. BRYANT, 7841 South Panther Creek Road, Mount Olive, Illinois 62069, USA; e-mail: cabryant@ctnet.net.


Submitted by CAROL A. BRYANT, 7841 South Panther Creek Road, Mount Olive, Illinois 62069, USA; e-mail: cabryant@ctnet.net.


Submitted by STESHA A. PASACHNIK, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, 47374, USA; e-mail: pasachni@earlham.edu.


Submitted by RICHARD LEHTINEN, GLENN FOX, KEITH PECOR, and GREG SCHNEIDER, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109–1079, USA.

ANURA

Batrachyla nibaldoi (Nibaldo’s Wood Frog). CHILE: X REGION DE LOS LAGOS: Quinchao, Isla Alto (42°35’S, 73°16’W, 114 m elev.), ca. 6 km N of Isla Chilencio. 13 and 18 February 2001. L. Irrite, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Santiago, Chile (MNHN 3422 and 3421). Verified by H. Núñez. Collected on mosses in a Chilean Valdivian rain forest. Species previously known in Chile from Puente Trailluana (Formas 1997), Herpetologia 53:6–13. Subsequent records extended the range to Laguna San Rafael National Park (Diaz-Pérez and Williams 2001, Herpetol. Rev. 32:189) and Las Guatecas National Reserve (Diaz-Pérez and Carrero 2002, Herpetol. Rev. 33:218). This specimen represents the first record from X Administrativo Region of Chile, and extends the northern range of the species ca. 360 km NW from Puente Trailluana.

Submitted by DANIEL PINCHEIRA-DONOSO, Sección Zoologia, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Casilla 787, Santiago, Chile and HELEN DÍAZ-PÉrez, Departamento de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Oceanográficas, Universidad de Concepción, Casilla 160-C, Concepción, Chile.

Bufo Californicus (California Arroyo Toad). MÉXICO: BAJA CALIFORNIA NORTE: Río San Rafael, Cañon San Rafael, 18 air km E Punta Colonel (31°09.876’N, 116°25.39’W), 200 m elev. 25 May 2002. Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History voucher photographs (LACM–PC 1390), Río de Las Palmas, Cañon al Alamo, 6.5 air km NE El Testera (32°33.030’N, 116°51.396’W), 450 m elev. 23 March 2002. (LACM–PC 1391), and Río los Encinos, Cañon la Guerra, 1 air km NW Uvaquén (31°63.656’N, 116°46.570’W), 175 m elev. 5 April 2002. (LACM–PC 1392). Observed by Diego Casas, Hector Cevallos, Gustavo Dunnebier, Brian Freiermuth, Robert Lovich, Clark Mahrt, Mark Mendelsohn, Jeff Sauerwein. All photos verified by Edward L. Ervin. This species ranges west from the Sierra Juárez and Sierra San Pedro Mártir peninsular range to the foothills and coastal plains of northwestern Baja California, and south to San Quintin (Grissmer 2002. Amphibians and Reptiles of Baja California including its Pacific Islands and the Islands in the Sea of Cortés, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, California). Both adults and larvae of Bufo californicus were previously reported by Welsh (1988. Proc. California Acad. Sci. 46:1–72) from the upper Río San Rafael drainage in the western foothills (1300 m elev.) and conifer forest (2210 m elev.) of the Sierra San Pedro Mártir. The Río San Rafael population reported here represents a new coastal record for this drainage, located ca. 65 km downstream from the foothill locality reported by Welsh (1988, op. cit.). Several pseudomorphs in addition to Hyla regilla and H. cadaverina tadpoles were observed at the site along a 200 m portion of stream. An adult male (SVL 55 mm; 27 g) was observed in the Río de las Palmas in association with introduced adult Xenopus laevis and adult H. regilla, and H. cadaverina. Although Grissmer (2002, op. cit.) does not include X. laevis as occurring in Baja California, Tinsley and McCloud (1996, In R.C. Tinsley and H.R. Kobel [eds.], The Biology of Xenopus, Symposium of the Zoological Society of London, No. 68, pp. 81–94, Clarendon Press, Oxford) indicate that this species may occur in large populations in the Municipality of Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico. This record of X. laevis confirms the species presence in the Río las Palmas watershed and represents the southernmost record in Baja California. In the Río los Encinos drainage, an adult male arroyo toad (SVL 54 mm; wt. 17 g) was observed with several adult H. regilla, the Río de las Palmas and Río los Encinos records represent new river drainages for the arroyo toad (see Mahrt et al. 2002. Herpetol. Rev. 33:123–125) and potential breeding sites of Bufo californicus.