

Reptiles and Amphibians of the Oliver Wildlife Preserve

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The Oliver Wildlife Preserve of the University of Oklahoma is located two miles south of Norman, Cleveland County, on the upper level of the South Canadian River flood plain. This flood plain forest of approximately 60 acres is maintained for biological research. The once dominant Cottonwoods have been mostly replaced by Green Ash, American Elm and Persimmon. Due to the grazing of about fifteen head of cattle, the undergrowth is poorly developed. Rotting logs are abundant throughout the preserve. A few small pools are present in years of normal rainfall, and frequently the northwest corner of the forest is flooded for a few weeks in the spring. An open area at the southern part of the woods represents a sand bar of a past channel of the South Canadian River. The following check list of amphibians and reptiles is presented with the hope that interest will be created for more research on the preserve and as a reference for future workers in the area.

The following terms are used to designate the relative abundance of the species listed as determined by approximately two hundred trips to the preserve over a period of four years: Rare—one or two individuals recorded; few—three to twelve; common—thirteen to fifty; abundant—fifty one to one hundred; very abundant—over one hundred individuals recorded.

The common names used in this paper are those set up by a committee of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (Copeia 1956(3): 176-185) in an effort to present a stable check list of names for amphibians and reptiles.

CLASS AMPHIBIA

Order Caudata

Ambystomidae

Ambystoma texanum Matthes Small-mouthed Salamander

Abundant. Recorded after heavy rains or during continuing rainy weather. Use crayfish burrows.

Order Anura

Bufonidae

Bufo w. woodhousei Girard Rocky Mountain Toad

Rare.

Hylidae

Acris gryllus blanchardi Harper Blanchard's Cricket Frog

Few. About small ponds in spring and summer.

Pseudacris clarki Baird Spotted Chorus Frog

Rare. Have been heard singing after heavy rain.

Microhylidae

Microhyla carolinensis olivacea Hallowell Great Plains Narrow-mouthed Toad

Few. Choruses heard after heavy rain when woods flooded.

Ranidae

Rana catesbeiana Shaw Bullfrog

Rare. Probably transients from South Canadian River.

Rana pipiens berlandieri Baird Rio Grande Leopard Frog

Few. About small ponds in spring and summer.

CLASS REPTILIA

Order Chelonia
Chelydridae

Chelydra s. serpentina Linnaeus Common Snapping Turtle
Common. Associated with small ponds.

Kinosternidae

Kinosternon j. flavescens Agassiz Yellow Mud Turtle
Very abundant. In small pools throughout preserve.

Emydidae

Terrapene carolina triunguis Agassiz Three-toed Box Turtle
Very abundant.

Terrapene o. ornata Agassiz Ornate Box Turtle
Abundant.

Pseudemys scripta elegans Wied Red-eared Turtle
Rare. Found in hibernation only.

Order Sauria

Iguanidae

Sceloporus undulatus garmani Boulenger Northern Prairie Lizard
Abundant. Associated with logs and stumps in open areas.

Anguillidae

Ophisaurus u. attenuatus Baird Western Slender Glass Lizard
Few. Found in open areas with good grass cover.

Teiidae

Cnemidophorus sexlineatus Linnaeus Six-lined Racerunner
Common. Active near open sand bar area.

Scincidae

Lygosoma laterale Say Ground Skink
Very abundant. On forest floor of entire preserve.

Eumeces fasciatus Linnaeus Five-lined Skink
Abundant. Associated with rotting logs.

Eumeces septentrionalis obtusirostris Bocourt Southern Prairie Skink
Rare.

Order Serpentes

Colubridae

Natrix grahami Baird and Girard Graham's Water Snake
Rare. Observed only under very wet conditions.

Storeria dekayi (subsp. *texana*?) Trapido Texas Brown Snake
Common.

Thamnophis sauritus proximus Say Western Ribbon Snake
Few.

Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis Say Red-sided Garter Snake
Common.

Diadophis punctatus arnyi Kennicott Prairie Ring-neck Snake
Rare.

Coluber constrictor flaviventris Say Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer
Rare.

Masticophis f. flagellum Shaw Eastern Coachwhip.
Rare.

Opheodrys aestivus Linnaeus Rough Green Snake
Few.

Blasphe o. obsoleta Say Black Rat Snake
Few.

Lampropeltis c. calligaster Harlan Prairie Kingsnake
Rare.

Lampropeltis getulus holbrooki Stejneger Speckled Kingsnake
Few.