

New County Records for Amphibians and Reptiles in Southwest Indiana

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The distribution records reported here are the results of drift fence/pitfall trap sampling coupled with dip-netting, funnel trapping, and random encounters at several localities in southwestern Indiana during 2009. Several of these records fill in gaps between counties where the individual species had not previously been reported (see Minton 2001). The coordinates given for each species were recorded with a handheld Garmin® GPSMAP 76CSx. Datum for the GPS was set at NAD 83. Specimens were verified by Christopher A. Phillips at the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS). All new county records are backed by vouchered photographs housed at INHS.

Caudata — Salamanders

Ambystoma opacum (Marbled Salamander). GREENE Co.: Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area, ca. 0.34 km SW of the intersection of 600N and 1500W (39.11066°N, 87.22505°W). 25 March 2009. Vanessa C. Kinney and Jennifer L. Heemeyer. INHS 2009ab. Adult specimen captured in a pitfall trap outside of an ephemeral wetland.

Ambystoma tigrinum (Eastern Tiger Salamander). CLAY Co.: Approximately 9.1 km WNW of Clay City (39.290601°N, 87.218976°W). 07 April 2009. Nathan J. Engbrecht. INHS 2009ac. Single adult captured in a funnel trap in a cattle pond. This record partially fills a gap in the range of this species in SW Indiana. GREENE Co.: Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area, ca. 0.14 km SW of the intersection of 650N and 1500W (39.119404°N, 87.22371°W). 08 March 2009. Vanessa C. Kinney, Jennifer L. Heemeyer, and Michael J. Lannoo. INHS 2009aa. Adult specimen captured in a pitfall trap outside of a semi-permanent wetland.

Notophthalmus viridescens (Eastern Newt). DAVIESS Co.: Approximately 5 km W of the intersection of Hwy 231 and Hwy 558 (38.896501°N, 86.927999°W). 21 July 2009. Nathan J. Engbrecht. INHS 2009ad. Single larva captured in an artificial pond. This record partially fills a large gap in the range of this species in SW Indiana. GREENE Co.: Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area, ca. 0.34 km SW of the intersection of 600N and 1500W (39.11066°N, 87.22505°W). 23 September 2009. Vanessa C. Kinney. INHS 2009z. Eft stage newt captured in a pitfall trap outside of an ephemeral wetland.

Testudines — Turtles

Sternotherus odoratus (Eastern Musk Turtle). GREENE Co.: Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area, ca. 0.90 km SW of the intersection of 600N and 1500W (39.107704°N, 87.23046°W). 26 June 2009. Vanessa C. Kinney. INHS 2009y. Adult captured in a pitfall trap outside of an ephemeral wetland at the edge of a grassland and wooded area. The hind legs of this individual were malformed; it is not known whether this was caused by a predation attempt, injury, or developmental complications.

Terrapene carolina (Eastern Box Turtle). GREENE Co.: Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area, ca. 0.14 km SW from the intersection of 650N and 1500W (39.119404°N, 87.22371°W). 22 May 2009. Vanessa C. Kinney, Jennifer H. Heemeyer, and Michael J. Lannoo. INHS 2009x. Adult captured in a pitfall trap outside of a semi-permanent prairie wetland.

Squamata — Snakes

Clonophis kirtlandii (Kirtland's Snake). GREENE Co.: Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area, ca. 0.90 km SW of the intersection of 600N and 1500W (39.107704°N, 87.23046°W). 25 March 2009. Vanessa C. Kinney and Alex Robinson. INHS 2009v. Adult captured in a pitfall trap entering an ephemeral wetland at the edge of a grassland and wooded area. Extends the known range of this species in Indiana one county to the SW. Kirtland's Snakes are listed as an Endangered Species in Indiana.

Diadophis punctatus (Ring-necked Snake). GREENE Co.: Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area, ca. 0.34 km SW of the intersection of 600 N and 1500 W (39.11066°N, 87.22505°W). 06 September 2009. Vanessa C. Kinney. INHS 2009w. Adult captured in a pitfall trap outside of an ephemeral wetland. Partially fills a gap in the range of this species in SW Indiana.

Lampropeltis getula (Common Kingsnake). GREENE Co.: Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area, ca. 0.24 km SE of the intersection of 650 N and 1500 W (39.119194°N, 87.219734°W). 11 June 2009. Jennifer L. Heemeyer. INHS 2009s. Adult found on a footpath in a managed prairie. This record partially fills a gap in the range of this species in southern Indiana.

Storeria dekayi (Dekay's Brownsnake). GREENE Co.: Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area, ca. 0.90 km SW of the intersection of 600N and 1500W (39.107704°N, 87.23046°W). 08 March 2009. Vanessa C. Kinney, Jennifer L. Heemeyer, and Michael J. Lannoo. INHS 2009t. Adult captured in a pitfall trap outside of an ephemeral wetland near a prairie-forest edge.

Thamnophis sauritus (Eastern Ribbonsnake). GREENE Co.: Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area, ca. 0.34 km SW of the intersection of 600 N and 1500 W (39.11066°N, 87.22505°W). 26 April 2009. Vanessa C. Kinney and Zachary J. Terrell. INHS 2009u. Adult individual found moving along a drift fence surrounding an ephemeral prairie wetland. Partially fills a gap along the edge of this species range in Indiana.

LITERATURE CITED

- MINTON, S. A., JR. 2001. Amphibians and Reptiles of Indiana. Indiana Acad. of Sci., Indianapolis, Indiana. 404 pp.