

## A CHECK LIST OF THE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Dale W. Fishbeck and James C. Underhill<sup>1</sup>  
State University of South Dakota  
Vermillion, South Dakota

William H. Over (1) prepared the first list of the amphibians and reptiles of South Dakota in 1923 and in 1943 the list was re-published with a few minor revisions (2). O'Roke (3) published a list of amphibians collected during a field trip in 1924. A list of species collected in the Black Hills was prepared by Robins (4) and one of us has discussed the toads of eastern South Dakota (5). Fishbeck (6) has prepared a detailed account of the species found in the southeastern counties (Clay, Lincoln, Turner, Union, and Yankton) of the state.

Over's work was in many instances vague in respect to the distribution of several of the species and furthermore did not include several species now known from the state. A complete revision originally planned does not appear to be possible in the near future and hence the present list has been prepared to serve until a more comprehensive treatment is forthcoming. It is also hoped that this list will serve to focus attention on the need for a more active interest in the herpetology of the state.

The following list is based on specimens collected over the past five years and on specimens in various museum and college collections. Following each species is a county list and in parenthesis an abbreviation of the museum or college where the various specimens have been deposited.

The sources of material examined or for which lists have been obtained are cited by the following abbreviations:

- AC — Augustana College, South Dakota
- AMNH — American Museum of Natural History
- CAS — Chicago Academy of Science
- CNHM — Chicago Natural History Museum
- KU — Kansas University Museum of Natural History
- SUSD — State University of South Dakota
- UMMZ — University of Michigan Museum of Zoology
- USNM — United States National Museum
- YC — Yankton College Museum

<sup>1</sup>Present Address: Zoology Department, University of Minnesota.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to W. J. Beecher, Doris M. Cochran, A. Gordon Froiland, Robert F. Inger, John M. Legler, Frank W. Jobs, Charles F. Walker, and Richard G. Zweifel for the loan of specimens and lists of South Dakota material. The present work was made possible by a grant in aid from the Research Fund of the State University of South Dakota. This paper is contribution number 1 of the Department of Zoology of the State University of South Dakota.

Annotated list follows.

### AMPHIBIA

*Necturus maculosa maculosa* Rafinesque, mudpuppy.

Big Stone Lake, Lake Traverse, and the lakes in northeastern South Dakota (Marshall, Day, and Roberts counties).

*Ambystoma tigrinum* Green, tiger salamander.

Common throughout the state, probably represented by at least two subspecies, *A. t. tigrinum* and *A. t. melanostictum*. Brookings (SUSD), Corson (SUSD), Brule (SUSD), Clay (UMMZ, SUSD), Corson (SUSD), Day (SUSD), Gregory (SUSD, USNM), Hamlin (SUSD), Jackson (AMNH), Lake (SUSD), McPherson (USNM), Minnehaha (SUSD), Pennington (CNHM), Shannon (USNM), Stanley (SUSD), Tripp (UMNZ), Union (SUSD), Walworth (UMMZ), Yankton (SUSD).

*Scaphiopus bombifrons* Cope, central plains spadefoot.

Common in southeastern and western South Dakota. Clay (SUSD), Corson (SUSD), Custer (CNHM), Gregory (SUSD), Harding (KU, USNM), Hutchinson (SUSD), Jackson (UMNZ), Lincoln (SUSD), Turner (SUSD), Union (SUSD), Yankton (SUSD).

*Bufo cognatus* Say, great plains toad.

Common throughout the state. Charles Mix (SUSD), Clay (SUSD), Custer (CNHM, UMMZ), Fall River (USNM), Gregory (SUSD), Jackson (UMMZ), Jerauld (SUSD), Lincoln (SUSD), Marshall (SUSD), Minnehaha (SUSD), Roberts (SUSD), Spink (UMMZ), Stanley (USNM), Turner (SUSD), Union (SUSD), Yankton (SUSD).

*Bufo terrestris americanus* Girard, American toad.

Restricted to east central South Dakota. Lake (SUSD), Lincoln (SUSD), Minnehaha (SUSD), Moody (SUSD).

*Bufo woodhousei woodhousei* Girard, Woodhouse's toad.

Common in southeastern and western South Dakota. Bennett (CNHM), Bon Homme (SUSD), Brule (UMMZ, USNM), Butte (USNM), Charles Mix (UMMZ), Clay (UMMZ, SUSD), Custer

(UMMZ), Fall River (USNM), Gregory (SUSD), Harding (USNM), Jackson (UMMZ), Lincoln (SUSD), Pennington (USNM), Stanley (UMMZ, SUSD), Todd (UMMZ), Turner (SUSD), Union (SUSD), Yankton (SUSD).

*Bufo hemiophrys* Cope, Dakota toad.

Common in the lake region of northeastern South Dakota. Brookings (SUSD), Day (SUSD), Hamlin (SUSD), Marshall (SUSD).

*Acris gryllus* Le Conte, cricket frog.

Common in southeastern South Dakota. Bon Homme (UMMZ, USNM, SUSD), Clay (UMMZ, SUSD), Hanson (SUSD), Hutchinson (SUSD), Turner (SUSD), Union (SUSD), Yankton (USNM, SUSD).

*Hyla versicolor* Le Conte, common tree frog.

Known from Bon Homme (USNM, SUSD) and Yankton (YC) counties.

*Pseudacris nigrita* (Le Conte), swamp tree frog.

Common throughout South Dakota, represented by two subspecies, *P. n. triseriata*, *P. n. maculata* and intergrades between them (*P. n. triseriata* X *maculata*) (7). Bon Homme (SUSD), Brookings (AMNH), Clay (UMMZ, SUSD), Custer (CNHM, UMMZ, SUSD), Day (SUSD), Harding (USNM), Jackson (CNHM), Jones (AMNH), Kingsbury (AMNH, SUSD), Lake (SUSD), Lyman (AMNH), Minnehaha (SUSD), Spink (UMMZ), Stanley (SUSD), Union (SUSD), Yankton (SUSD).

*Rana catesbeiana* Shaw, bullfrog.

Known from Bon Homme (SUSD), Gregory (SUSD) and Tripp (SUSD) counties.

*Rana sylvatica* Le Conte, wood frog.

Known from Roberts County (USNM).

*Rana pipiens* Schreber, meadow frog.

Common throughout the state. Bennett (CNHM), Bon Homme (UMMZ, USNM, SUSD), Brookings (SUSD), Brule (USNM), Butte (USNM), Clay (UMMZ, SUSD), Custer (CNHM, UMMZ), Day (SUSD), Deuel (CNHM, SUSD), Fall River (USNM), Faulk (SUSD), Hamlin (SUSD), Hanson (SUSD), Hutchinson (SUSD), Jackson (UMMZ), Kingsbury (SUSD), Lake (SUSD), Lawrence (USNM), Lincoln (SUSD), McCook (SUSD), Marshall (SUSD), Mellette (UMMZ), Miner (SUSD), Minnehaha (SUSD), Pennington (KU, UMMZ, USNM), Roberts (SUSD), Shannon (UMMZ), Stanley (SUSD), Todd (UMMZ), Turner (SUSD), Union (SUSD), Yankton (SUSD).

## REPTILIA

*Chelydra serpentina* Linnaeus, snapping turtle.

Probably common in the state wherever there is permanent water. Clay (SUSD), Davison (USNM), Gregory (SUSD), Jackson (UMMZ), Turner (YC), Union (SUSD).

*Terrapene ornata ornata* Agassiz, ornate box turtle.

Only two specimens are extant from South Dakota. Jackson (UMMZ), Minnehaha (AC).

*Graptemys pseudogeographica pseudogeographica* Gray, false map turtle.

Missouri River, Clay (SUSD), Union (SUSD) and Yankton (SUSD) counties.

*Chrysemys picta belli* Gray, western painted turtle.

Probably common throughout the state. Brule (AMNH), Charles Mix (SUSD), Clay (SUSD), Custer (USNM), Hanson (SUSD), Harding (SUSD), Jackson (UMMZ), Lake (SUSD), Union (SUSD), Washabaugh (UMMZ).

*Trionyx ferox hartwegi* Conant and Goin, western soft-shelled turtle.

Clay County (SUSD) mouth of the Vermillion River.

*Trionyx muticus* Le Sueur, Le Sueur's soft-shelled turtle.

Common in the Missouri River and its tributaries. Bon Homme (SUSD), Gregory (UMMZ), Hughes (UMMZ), Lincoln (SUSD), Yankton (UMMZ, YC).

*Holbrookia maculata maculata* Girard, northern earless lizard.

Southwestern South Dakota. Bennett (CNHM, SUSD), and Gregory (CNHM) counties.

*Sceloporus undulatus garmani* Boulenger, northern prairie lizard.

Southwestern South Dakota. Bennett (CNHM, SUSD), Tripp (UMMZ), and Washington (USNM).

*Phrynosoma douglassi brevirostre* Girard, eastern short-horned lizard.

Western South Dakota. Clay (SUSD), Harding (SUSD), Fall River (USNM), Perkins (SUSD).

*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus* Linnaeus, eastern race runner.

Western South Dakota. Fall River (KU, SUSD), Washington (SUSD, USNM).

*Eumeces fasciatus* Linnaeus, five-lined skink.

Extreme southeastern South Dakota (8:188), (1:20).

*Eumeces septentrionalis septentrionalis* Baird, northern prairie skink.

Charles Mix (SUSD), Clay (SUSD), Hutchinson (SUSD), Kingsbury (SUSD), Minnehaha (AC), Roberts (SUSD), Turner (SUSD), Yankton (SUSD, YC).

*Storeria dekayi* Holbrook, DeKay's snake.

Only a single record in South Dakota, from Roberts County (SUSD).

*Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata* Storer, red-bellied snake.

Eastern South Dakota and the Black Hills region. Deuel (SUSD), Lawrence (CAS), Lincoln (SUSD), Minnehaha (SUSD), Pennington (USNM), Roberts (SUSD).

*Thamnophis elegans vagrans* Baird and Girard, wandering garter snake.

Western South Dakota, Black Hills region. Custer (CNHM, UMMZ, USNM, SUSD), Lawrence (SUSD), Pennington (UMMZ, SUSD).

*Thamnophis radix haydeni* Kennicott, western plains garter snake.

Common throughout the state. Brookings (CAS), Brule (AMNH), Clay (UMMZ, SUSD), Coddington (SUSD), Custer (USNM), Day (SUSD), Dewey (CAS), Gregory (SUSD), Jackson (UMMZ, SUSD), Jones (AMNH), Lake (SUSD), Lincoln (SUSD), Lyman (AMNH), Marshall (SUSD), Roberts (SUSD), Stanley (USNM), Tripp (UMMZ), Turner (SUSD), Union (SUSD), Yankton (SUSD).

*Thamnophis sirtadis parietalis* Say, red-sided garter snake.

Probably common throughout the state. Bennett (CNHM), Bon Homme (SUSD), Clay (SUSD), Custer (AMNH, SUSD), Lawrence (UMMZ), Union (SUSD), Yankton (SUSD, YC).

*Tropidoclonium lineatum* Hallowell, lined snake.

Extreme southeastern South Dakota; Minnehaha (SUSD) and Union (SUSD) counties.

*Heterodon platyrhinos platyrhinos* Latreille, eastern hog-nosed snake.

Southeastern South Dakota; Clay (SUSD), Union (SUSD), Yankton (YC).

*Heterodon nasicus nasicus* Baird and Girard, western hog-nosed snake.

Bon Homme (SUSD), Brule (USNM), Charles Mix (USNM), Custer (CNHM), Deuel (SUSD), Dewey (CAS), Haakon (CAS), Jackson (UMMZ), Pennington (SUSD), Todd (CAS), Tripp (KU, UMMZ).

*Diadophis punctatus arnyi* Kennicott, prairie ring-necked snake.  
Extreme southeastern South Dakota. Union (SUSD) and Yankton (YC) counties.

*Coluber constrictor flaviventris* Say, yellow-bellied racer.  
Common throughout the state. Armstrong (CAS), Bennett (CNHM), Clay (SUSD), Corson (CAS), Custer (CNHM, UMMZ), Dewey (SUSD), Gregory (CNHM, SUSD), Harding (SUSD), Jackson (AMNH, UMMZ), Jones (SUSD), Pennington (USNM), Stanley (UMMZ), Sully (CAS), Washington (SUSD), Yankton (SUSD, YC).

*Opheodrys vernalis blanchardi* Grobman, western smooth green snake.  
Clay (SUSD), Custer (UMMZ, USNM), Lawrence (USNM), Pennington (CNHM, UMMZ), Roberts (SUSD).

*Elaphe vulpina vulpina* Baird and Girard, fox snake.  
Southeastern South Dakota. Clay (SUSD), Lincoln (SUSD), Minnehaha (AC), Union (SUSD), Yankton (YC).

*Pituophis catenifer sayi* Schlegel, bull snake.  
Common throughout the state. Armstrong (CAS), Bennett (CNHM), Charles Mix (UMMZ), Clay (CNHM, SUSD), Custer (CNHM, UMMZ), Dewey (CAS), Fall River (AMNH, UMMZ), Gregory (SUSD), Harding (CAS), Jackson (UMMZ), Lyman (CAS), Mellette (UMMZ), Pennington (AMNH, USNM), Tripp (UMMZ), Yankton (SUSD, YC), Ziebach (CAS).

*Lampropeltis dolliata* Linnaeus, milk snake.  
Tanner and Loomis (9) suggest that two subspecies may be present in South Dakota. All specimens from southeastern South Dakota appear to be *L. d. multistrata* Kennicott, the pale milk snake, which is the subspecies common to western South Dakota. Bennett (CNHM), Clay (SUSD), Dewey (SUSD), Gregory (SUSD), Jones (SUSD), Hughes (UMMZ), Todd (CAS), Yankton (YC).

*Crotalus viridis viridis* Rafinesque, prairie rattlesnake.  
Common in South Dakota west of the Missouri River and known from the counties bordering the east bank of the Missouri River. Probably it was formerly common in the southeastern counties before intensive cultivation. Butte (AMNH), Charles Mix (SUSD), Corson (CAS), Custer (CNHM), Dewey (SUSD, USNM), Fall River (SUSD), Gregory (SUSD), Jackson (UMMZ), Jones (UMMZ), Lincoln (SUSD), Lyman (USNM), Meade (CAS), Pennington (USNM), Stanley (UMMZ), Sully (UMMZ), Tripp (KU), Ziebach (UMMZ).

## LITERATURE CITED

1. Over, William H., Amphibians and Reptiles of South Dakota. S. D. Geol. and Nat. Hist. Bull. 12: 34 pp. (1923).
2. ———, Amphibians and Reptiles of South Dakota. Univ. South Dakota Nat. Hist. Stud. VI: 31 pp. (1943).
3. O'Roke, E. C., The Amphibians of South Dakota. Proc. S. D. Acad. Sci. (1924) 9: 13-15 (1926).
4. Robins, C. Richard, Variation in the Greensnake, *Opheodrys vernalis* (Harlan), from the Black Hills, South Dakota. Copeia, 191-192 (1952).
5. Underhill, James C., Notes on the Toads of Eastern South Dakota. Copeia, 149-151 (1958).
6. Fishbeck, Dale W., manuscript.
7. Smith, Philip W., The Status, Correct Name, and Geographic Range of the Boreal Chorus Frog. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 69: 169-176 (1956).
8. Taylor, Edward H., A Taxonomic Study of the Cosmopolitan Scincoid Lizards of the Genus *Eumeces*. Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull. 23: 642 pp. (1935).
9. Tanner, Wilmer W., and Richard B. Loomis, A Taxonomic and Distributional Study of the Western Milk Snake, *Lampropeltis dolliata*. Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci. 60: 12-42 (1957).