

A RANGE EXTENSION AND LOW ELEVATIONAL RECORD FOR THE ARIZONA RIDGENOSE RATTLESNAKE (*CROTALUS W. WILLARDI*)

The Arizona ridgenose rattlesnake (*Crotalus w. willardi*) is a montane subspecies of limited distribution in southeastern Arizona, having been recorded only from Carr and Ramsey Canyons in the Huachuca Mountains and from the Santa Rita Mountains. Specimens have been observed at elevations ranging from 1700 m to over 2740 m (Stebbins, 1954; Klauber, 1972) in plant associations dominated by Arizona white oak (*Quercus arizonica*), big-tooth maple (*Acer grandidentata*), New Mexican locust (*Robinia neomexicana*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) and white fir (*Abies concolor*) (Wright and Wright, 1975). Lowe (1964) states that this rattlesnake is present from the Transition Zone to the Upper Sonoran, and is most commonly found on conifer forest floors. Shaw and Campbell (1974) have suggested that this snake may favor canyon bottoms dominated by deciduous trees such as maple, oak and ash.

An adult male *C. w. willardi*, measuring 550 mm in length, was observed seven kilometers west of Parker Lake, Cochise County, Arizona, in the rolling foothills southwest of the Huachuca Mountains. The snake was found coiled under a piece of bark near a decomposing oak log along a south-facing slope of a small tributary canyon of Brushy Canyon. Dominant vegetation included Arizona sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*), Mexican pinyon (*Pinus cembroides*), one seed juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*), Arizona ash (*Fraxinus velutina*), Emory oak (*Quercus emoryi*) and Mexican blue oak (*Quercus oblongifolia*). This plant community has been described as pine-oak woodland by Lowe and Brown (1973), also exhibiting characteristics of the deciduous woodland community. Elevation is 1600 meters.

The presence of this subspecies at a previously unrecorded elevation and in a characteristic southern oak-juniper community raises the possibility that it may be more widespread than previously suspected, and certainly not as restricted to higher elevations and more montane habitats. Canyon systems in this area, with their lush vegetation, thicker canopy and rockier substrate may provide a means for dispersal from isolated mountain ranges into more arid, less habitable environments.

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HERPETOLOGICAL RECORDS FROM A RELICT PRAIRIE IN OHIO

Killdeer Plains is a relict prairie in northwestern Ohio that developed during the xerothermic period following the last glaciation (Sears, 1942, Bot. Review 8:708-736). The original prairie was 30,000 acres, but due to intensive farming, only 7,000 acres remain and are contained primarily in the Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, Wyandot County (7 km E Versailles). We recorded 16 species of reptiles and amphibians during the course of a field study on *Thamnophis radix* (an endangered species in Ohio which is isolated, 483 km E of the rest of this species' distribution; Conant, Thomas, and Rausch, 1945, Copeia 1945:61-68) and *T. sirtalis*. Four of these species are records for Wyandot County and supplement Conant (1951, The reptiles of Ohio, Univ. Notre Dame Press). Individual specimens are in the Ohio State University Museum of Zoology (uncatalogued), unless otherwise stated.

Storeria occipitomaculata (Redbelly snake). On County Road 75 between CR 123 and CR 103. 2 October 1979. L. Reichenbach and N. Reichenbach. 5 DOR specimens. New Ohio county record and the second record for the till plains physiographic region in Ohio, 95 km SW of nearest record. A third isolated locality in the sparsely occupied area (W Ohio, E Indiana, N Kentucky) of this species distribution (Conant, 1975, *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America*, Houghton Mifflin, Boston).

Storeria dekayi (Brown snake). On CR 75 between CR 123 and CR 103. 2 October 1979. L. Reichenbach and N. Reichenbach. 10 DOR specimens. New Ohio county record, 39 km SW of nearest record.

Clonophis kirtlandi (Kirtland's snake). Pond #6. 4 September and 16, 20 October 1979. F. Dulin, M. Brown, G. Baker, J. Kinney, L. Reichenbach, G. Dalrymple, and N. Reichenbach. 9 specimens (7 adult, 2 juv.). New Ohio county record, 18 km NW of nearest record.

Chelydra serpentina (Common snapping tur-

tle). Pond #6. 26 May 1978. W. Nichols and N. Reichenbach. Released at capture site. New Ohio county record, 27 km NE of nearest record.

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A PACIFIC LOGGERHEAD CAPTURED OFF CALIFORNIA'S NORTHERN CHANNEL ISLANDS

A small Pacific loggerhead, *Caretta caretta gigas*, was captured in waters near Santa Cruz Island, California, on 15 March 1978. The encounter occurred three nautical miles off Valley Anchorage at 33° 56' N and 119° 39' W during a Bureau of Land Management Cetacea Survey.

The turtle, observed floating quietly at the surface of the water, was captured and brought on board the survey vessel, and was identified as a young female Pacific loggerhead. Straight line measurements of the keeled carapace were 457 mm (17.9 inches) in length and 361 mm (15.0 inches) in width. Approximate weight was 8.6 kg (18 pounds). A single species of barnacle and three small crabs were the only commensals associated with the turtle. These organisms were removed and preserved for specific identification.

Several investigators have reported the presence of *Caretta caretta gigas* in the waters of Southern California and Baja California, Mexico (Shaw, 1947; Caldwell, 1962; Marquez, 1969), but the loggerhead has not been previously reported this far north in the Southern California Bight. This record represents a northern extension of the range of the species on the Pacific coast.

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