

From Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas 3rd Ed.  
 by Joe Collins & Suzanne Collins © 1993

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Foreword by John E. Hayes, Jr. . . . . vii  
 Preface . . . . . ix  
 Introduction . . . . . 1  
 A brief history of Kansas herpetology . . . . . 3  
 Physiographic provinces in Kansas . . . . . 6  
 Explanation of species accounts . . . . . 12  
 Endangered and threatened species . . . . . 15  
 Alien species . . . . . 17  
 How to find and observe amphibians and reptiles . . . . . 19  
**Amphibians** . . . . . 23  
 Salamanders . . . . . 24  
 - Family Ambystomatidae . . . . . 26  
 Smallmouth Salamander (*Ambystoma texanum*) . . . . . 26  
 Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) . . . . . 29  
 - Family Salamandridae . . . . . 32  
 Eastern Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) . . . . . 32  
 - Family Plethodontidae . . . . . 35  
 Longtail Salamander (*Eurycea longicauda*) . . . . . 35  
 Cave Salamander (*Eurycea lucifuga*) . . . . . 37  
 Many-ribbed Salamander (*Eurycea multiplicata*) . . . . . 39  
 Grotto Salamander (*Typhlotriton spelaeus*) . . . . . 41  
 - Family Proteidae . . . . . 43  
 Mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*) . . . . . 43  
 Red River Mudpuppy (*Necturus louisianensis*) . . . . . 43  
**Frogs and toads** . . . . . 46  
 Family Pelobatidae . . . . . 47  
 Plains Spadefoot (*Spea bombifrons*) . . . . . 47  
 Family Bufonidae . . . . . 50  
 American Toad (*Bufo americanus*) . . . . . 50  
 Great Plains Toad (*Bufo cognatus*) . . . . . 53  
 Green Toad (*Bufo debilis*) . . . . . 56  
 Red-spotted Toad (*Bufo punctatus*) . . . . . 59  
 Woodhouse's Toad (*Bufo woodhousii*) . . . . . 62  
 Family Hylidae . . . . . 65  
 Northern Cricket Frog (*Acris crepitans*) . . . . . 65  
 Cope's Gray Treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*) . . . . . 68  
 Eastern Gray Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*) . . . . . 68  
 Spotted Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris clarkii*) . . . . . 71  
 Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) . . . . . 73  
 Boreal Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris maculata*) . . . . . 76  
 Western Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*) . . . . . 76

Strecker's Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris streckeri*) . . . . . 79  
 Family Ranidae . . . . . 82  
 Crawfish Frog (*Rana areolata*) . . . . . 82  
 Plains Leopard Frog (*Rana blairi*) . . . . . 85  
 Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) . . . . . 88  
 Green Frog (*Rana clamitans*) . . . . . 91  
 Pickerel Frog (*Rana palustris*) . . . . . 94  
 Southern Leopard Frog (*Rana sphenocephala*) . . . . . 96  
 Family Microhylidae . . . . . 98  
 Eastern Narrowmouth Toad (*Gastrophryne carolinensis*) . . . . . 98  
 Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad (*Gastrophryne olivacea*) . . . . . 101  
**Reptiles** . . . . . 104  
 Turtles . . . . . 105  
 Family Chelydridae . . . . . 106  
 Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) . . . . . 106  
 Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macroclémys temminckii*) . . . . . 109  
 Family Kinosternidae . . . . . 113  
 Yellow Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon flavescens*) . . . . . 113  
 Common Musk Turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*) . . . . . 115  
 Family Emydidae . . . . . 117  
 Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta*) . . . . . 117  
 Common Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*) . . . . . 120  
 Mississippi Map Turtle (*Graptemys kohnii*) . . . . . 122  
 False Map Turtle (*Graptemys pseudogeographica*) . . . . . 124  
 River Cooter (*Pseudemys concinna*) . . . . . 127  
 Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) . . . . . 129  
 Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornata*) . . . . . 132  
 Slider (*Trachemys scripta*) . . . . . 135  
 Family Trionychidae . . . . . 138  
 Smooth Softshell (*Apalone mutica*) . . . . . 138  
 Spiny Softshell (*Apalone spinifer*) . . . . . 141  
**Lizards** . . . . . 144  
 Family Grotaphytidae . . . . . 146  
 Collared Lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris*) . . . . . 146  
 Family Phrynosomatidae . . . . . 149  
 Lesser Earless Lizard (*Holbrookia maculata*) . . . . . 149  
 Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) . . . . . 152  
 Prairie Lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*) . . . . . 155  
 Family Scincidae . . . . . 158  
 Coal Skink (*Eumeces anthracinus*) . . . . . 158  
 Five-lined Skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*) . . . . . 160

Broadhead Skink ( <i>Eumeces laticeps</i> )	163
Great Plains Skink ( <i>Eumeces obsoletus</i> )	165
Southern Prairie Skink ( <i>Eumeces obtusirostris</i> )	169
Northern Prairie Skink ( <i>Eumeces septentrionalis</i> )	169
Ground Skink ( <i>Scincella lateralis</i> )	171
Family Teiidae	173
Six-lined Racerunner ( <i>Cnemidophorus sexlineatus</i> )	173
Family Lacertidae	176
Italian Wall Lizard ( <i>Podarcis sicula</i> )	176
Family Anguidae	178
Western Slender Glass Lizard ( <i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i> )	178
Snakes	181
Family Leptotyphlopidae	183
Texas Blind Snake ( <i>Leptotyphlops dulcis</i> )	183
Family Xenodontidae	185
Western Worm Snake ( <i>Carphophis vermis</i> )	185
Ringneck Snake ( <i>Diadophis punctatus</i> )	187
Western Hognose Snake ( <i>Heterodon nasicus</i> )	190
Eastern Hognose Snake ( <i>Heterodon platirhinos</i> )	193
Night Snake ( <i>Hypsiglena torquata</i> )	196
Flathead Snake ( <i>Tantilla gracilis</i> )	199
Plains Blackhead Snake ( <i>Tantilla nigriceps</i> )	201
Family Colubridae	203
Glossy Snake ( <i>Arizona elegans</i> )	203
Racer ( <i>Coluber constrictor</i> )	205
Great Plains Rat Snake ( <i>Elaphe emoryi</i> )	208
Rat Snake ( <i>Elaphe obsoleta</i> )	211
Prairie Kingsnake ( <i>Lampropeltis calligaster</i> )	213
Common Kingsnake ( <i>Lampropeltis getula</i> )	215
Milk Snake ( <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i> )	218
Coachwhip ( <i>Masticophis flagellum</i> )	221
Rough Green Snake ( <i>Ophiodrys aestivus</i> )	224
Gopher Snake ( <i>Pituophis catenifer</i> )	226
Longnose Snake ( <i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i> )	229
Ground Snake ( <i>Sonora semimaculata</i> )	231
Family Natricidae	233
Plainbelly Water Snake ( <i>Nerodia erythrogaster</i> )	233
Diamondback Water Snake ( <i>Nerodia rhombifer</i> )	236
Northern Water Snake ( <i>Nerodia sipedon</i> )	238
Graham's Grayfish Snake ( <i>Regina grahami</i> )	241
Brown Snake ( <i>Storeria dekayi</i> )	243
Redbelly Snake ( <i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i> )	245
Checkered Garter Snake ( <i>Thamnophis marcianus</i> )	248

Western Ribbon Snake ( <i>Thamnophis proximus</i> )	251
Plains Garter Snake ( <i>Thamnophis radix</i> )	253
Common Garter Snake ( <i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i> )	256
Lined Snake ( <i>Tropidoclonion lineatum</i> )	259
Rough Earth Snake ( <i>Virginia striatula</i> )	261
Smooth Earth Snake ( <i>Virginia valeriae</i> )	263
Family Viperidae	265
Copperhead ( <i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i> )	265
Cottonmouth ( <i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i> )	268
Timber Rattlesnake ( <i>Crotalus horridus</i> )	271
Western Rattlesnake ( <i>Crotalus viridis</i> )	274
Massasauga ( <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> )	277
Species of possible natural occurrence in Kansas	281
A technical key to the recent adult amphibia and reptilia in Kansas	285
Glossary	319
Bibliography	321
General works	321
Kansas amphibians and reptiles	327
Index to standard common and scientific names	391
Metric to English conversions	Facing Inside Back Cover
Kansas county outline map	Inside Back Cover
<i>Color plates follow p. 180.</i>	

### Kansas Reptile Classification

Kingdom: Animalia  
 Phylum: Chordata  
 Class: Reptilia  
 Order: Squamata (Lizards and Snakes)  
 Suborder: Lacertilia (Lizards)  
 Serpentes (Snakes)  
 Families: See rest of this handout.