

# New County Records of Amphibians and Reptiles Resulting from a Bioblitz Competition in North-Central Georgia, USA

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Since the publication of *Amphibians and Reptiles of Georgia* (Jensen et al. 2008), many new county-level distribution records for amphibians and reptiles have been reported for the state (e.g., Stevenson et al. 2009; Jensen et al. 2011; Stevenson et al. 2011; Butler et al. 2012). Additional contributions to the knowledge of the distribution of amphibians and reptiles have been made through annual bioblitz competitions held primarily between the University of Georgia and Auburn University. A bioblitz competition is an attempt to find and document as many species of defined taxa in a given area, often over a relatively short time period (Graham et al. 2007; Graham et al. 2010a; Graham et al. 2010b; Folt et al. 2013).

From 12–14 April 2013, we organized a bioblitz to search public and private lands in Fannin, Gilmer, and Murray counties, Georgia. Most of this focal area lies near the southwestern terminus of the Blue Ridge ecoregion, with western Murray Co. in the Ridge and Valley, and much of our search effort took place within the Chattahoochee National Forest. The region holds a high diversity of salamanders, and despite being relatively well-studied, a number of herpetofaunal distribution gaps existed—especially for turtles (Jensen et al. 2008). This bioblitz competition involved more than 30 participants from the University of Georgia, Auburn University, the University of Alabama, Virginia Tech, and Pennsylvania State University.

We detected 24 species of amphibians and 20 species of reptiles during the bioblitz. All of the following 14 accounts represent new county records. Ten of these records were collected during the three-county bioblitz, and four were records found outside of the time period and specific geographical bounds of the bioblitz but were obtained within the same general region. We vouchered all records with digital photographs. Records were verified by John Jensen and deposited in the Herpetological Collections of the Auburn University Museum (AUM/AHAP).

## CAUDATA — SALAMANDERS

**AMBYSTOMA MACULATUM (Spotted Salamander).** FANNIN Co.: Old Dial Road, 0.3 road miles N of Tilley Bend Lane (34.80391°N, 84.24628°W; WGS 84). 13 April 2013. T. Pierson, E. White, C. Murphy, W. Lattea, and M. Rajeev. AHAP-D 693. Egg mass. GILMER Co.: West of Whitepath Road, 1.3 road miles S of Boardtown Road (34.79022°N, 84.42278°W; WGS 84). 12 April 2013. T. Stratmann, C. Carter, K. Fouts, and E. Hernandez. AHAP-D 694.

## ANURA — FROGS

**LITHOBATES PALUSTRIS (Pickerel Frog).** MURRAY Co.: Old CCC Camp Road, 4.1 miles W of Mulberry Gap Road (34.81235°N, 84.66032°W; WGS 84). 12 April 2013. B. Folt and J. Jenkins. AHAP-D 698.

**PSEUDACRIS CRUCIFER (Spring Peeper).** FANNIN Co.: Intersection of Ballewtown Road and Appalachian Highway (34.8478°N, 84.33690556°W; WGS 84). 12 April 2013. H. Vogel, M. Knoerr, D. Drewett, and D. Steen. AHAP-C 0017. MURRAY Co.: Old CCC Camp Road, 0.8 road miles W of Mulberry Gap Road (34.80223°N, 84.62951°W; WGS 84). 12 April 2013. B. Folt and J. Jenkins. AHAP-D 697.

## TESTUDINES — TURTLES

**CHELYDRA SERPENTINA (Snapping Turtle).** TOWNS Co.: Approximately 100 m (airline) WSW of the intersection of Many Forks Road and Many Forks Spur (34.97426°N, 83.93671°W; WGS 84). 12 July 2010. T. Stratmann and B. Hudson. AHAP-D 703.

**CHRYSEMYS PICTA (Painted Turtle).** GILMER Co.: West of Whitepath Road, 1.3 miles S of Boardtown (34.79000°N, 84.42464°W; WGS 84). 12 April 2013. T. Stratmann, C. Carter, K. Fouts, and E. Hernandez. AHAP-D 695. MURRAY Co.: Highway 225, 0.4 road miles S of Temple Grove Road (34.92406°N, 84.79374°W; WGS 84). 12 April 2013. M. Herr and S. Graham. AHAP-D 701.

**STERNOTHERUS ODORATUS (Eastern Musk Turtle).** GILMER Co.: West of Whitepath Road, 1.3 miles S of Boardtown (34.79022°N, 84.42278°W; WGS 84). 12 April 2013. T. Stratmann, C. Carter, K. Fouts, and E. Hernandez. AHAP-D 696. UNION Co.: North of Goose Island Lake, approximately 250 m east of Cozy Acres Lane (34.78914°N, 84.40023°W; WGS 84). 7 June 2010. T. Stratmann and B. Hudson. AHAP-D 705.

## SQUAMATA — LIZARDS

**PLESTIODON INEXPECTATUS (Southeastern Five-lined Skink).** GILMER Co.: Alongside East Mountaintown Creek under Chatsworth Highway 52 bridge (34.75033333°N, 84.55582778°W; WGS 84). 13 April 2013. D. Drewett and D. Steen. AHAP-D 674.

**SCINCELLA LATERALIS (Little Brown Skink).** GILMER Co.: South of Woodring Branch Road, 3.5 road miles S of Highway 76 (34.63038°N, 84.64907°W; WGS 84). 13 April 2013. A. Clause, D. Blount, W. Booker, and J. Hunt. AHAP-D 699.

## SQUAMATA — SNAKES

**LAMPROPELTIS CALLIGASTER (Yellow-bellied Kingsnake).** TOWNS Co.: Gum Log Road, 0.3 road miles S of Julie Hollow Road (34.96643°N, 83.93502°W; WGS 84). 7 June 2012. T. Stratmann and G. Brown. AHAP-D 704.

**THAMNOPHIS SAURITUS (Eastern Ribbonsnake).** GILMER Co.: Approximately 0.8 miles (airline) NW of the intersection of Lebanon Road and Colwell Church Road (34.92912°N, 94.43818°W; WGS 84). 17 July 2010. T. Stratmann and B. Hudson. AHAP-D 702.

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