

New Distributional Records for the Herpetofauna of Texas

From a historical perspective, the state of Texas has been one of the most herpetologically diverse and traditionally sampled areas of the country. However, primarily due to collecting bias, several areas of Texas remain overlooked, particularly areas that lie outside of the Trans-Pecos region, and several species of herpetofauna tend to be largely unnoticed as well. Here we report on new county records that serve as either range extensions or that function as the “filling in” of distributional gaps for numerous species of amphibians and reptiles in several counties of Texas.

Although the majority of these records have been recorded within the past several years, many of these observations are of specimens that were discovered, journaled, and photographed without recognition of their significance. Therefore, many of the observations reported herein go back to the latter part of last century.

From 1986 to present, fieldwork has been conducted in the following 18 counties: Borden, Crane, Crockett, Ector, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Hale, Hockley, Irion, Midland, Runnels, Schleicher, Scurry, Sterling, Sutton, Taylor, and Upton. Voucher specimens or photographs were deposited into the Biodiversity Collections (formerly the Texas Natural History Collections) at The University of Texas at Austin (TNHC) and all vouchers were verified by Travis J. LaDuc. Coordinates and elevations of observation sites were taken with a GPS device using map datum WGS 84.

A total of 66 records comprised of 47 species of amphibians and reptiles are reported for the first time in the counties listed above. The new county records are listed below. Standard English names follow Crother (2012).

CAUDATA — SALAMANDERS

AMBYSTOMA MAVORTIUM (Western Tiger Salamander). BORDEN Co.: Gail, 0.48 air mi N on RM 669 (32.77738°N, 101.44652°W), 2529 ft elev. 20 June 2009. T. M. Dimler. TNHC 89529. Fills distributional gap.

ANURA — FROGS

ANAXYRUS COGNATUS (Great Plains Toad). SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 7.56 air mi WSW on private ranch (32.69028°N, 101.04617°W), 2292 ft elev. May 1991. M. S. Price. TNHC 92932, photo voucher. Extends distributional record.

ANAXYRUS DEBILIS DEBILIS (Eastern Chihuahuan Green Toad). SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 7.56 air mi WSW on private ranch (32.69028°N, 101.04617°W), 2292 ft elev. May 1991. M. S. Price. TNHC 92933, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

MICHAEL S. PRICE

Wild About Texas, 3932 Ransom Road,
 San Angelo, Texas 76903, USA; e-mail: wildabouttexas@gmail.com

TRAVIS M. DIMLER

West Texas Herpetological Society, P.O. Box 411,
 Gail, Texas 79738, USA; e-mail: travisdimler@sbcglobal.net

ANAXYRUS PUNCTATUS (Red-spotted Toad). SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 7.56 air mi WSW on private ranch (32.69028°N, 101.04617°W), 2292 ft elev. May 1991. M. S. Price. TNHC 92934, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

ANAXYRUS SPECIOSUS (Texas Toad). BORDEN Co.: Gail, 9.79 air mi NNE on private ranch (32.91113°N, 101.42322°W), 2534 ft elev. 9 May 2009. T. M. Dimler. TNHC 84916. Fills distributional gap.

ELEUTHERODACTYLUS MARNOCKII (Cliff Chirping Frog). CROCKETT Co.: Ozona, 32.37 air mi SW on RM 2083 (30.32592°N, 101.52662°W). 1915 ft elev. 14 June 2015. M. S. Price, N. M. Price, and S. G. Price. TNHC 95430, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

GASTROPHRYNE OLIVACEA (Western Narrow-mouthed Toad). BORDEN Co.: Gail, 5.28 air mi W on private ranch (32.75718°N, 101.53513°W), 2603 ft elev. 12 October 2012. T. M. Dimler. TNHC 89542. Fills distributional gap. MIDLAND Co.: Midland, 3.41 air mi SW on the premises of the I-20 Wildlife Preserve (31.96345°N, 102.12018°W), 2803 ft elev. 1 June 2015. M. S. Price, N. R. Price, and K. Conder. TNHC 95431, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap. SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 2.50 air mi SE on private residence (32.69872°N, 100.88120°W), 2355 ft elev. June 1994. M. S. Price. TNHC 92925, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap. STERLING Co.: Sterling City, 16.91 air mi SSE on RM 2034 (31.59654°N, 100.92406°W), 2397 ft elev. 20 April 2012. M. S. Price and N. M. Price. TNHC 89541. Fills distributional gap.

LITHOBATES CATESBEIANUS (American Bullfrog). MIDLAND Co.: Midland, 3.43 air mi SW on the premises of the I-20 Wildlife Preserve (31.96413°N, 102.12131°W), 2812 ft elev. 24 June 2014. M. S. Price and T. M. Dimler. TNHC 95432, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

PSEUDACRIS CLARKII (Spotted Chorus Frog). SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 13.62 air mi ENE on RM 1614 (32.73937°N, 100.68519°W), 2181 ft elev. August 1992. M. S. Price. TNHC 92922, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

SCAPHIOPUS COUCHII (Couch's Spadefoot). BORDEN Co.: Gail, 13.2 air mi S on Willow Valley Road (32.56336°N, 101.39130°W), 2357 ft elev. 12 October 2009. T. M. Dimler. TNHC 89753. Fills distributional gap. SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 7.56 air mi WSW on private ranch (32.69028°N, 101.04617°W), 2292 ft elev. May 1991. M. S. Price. TNHC 92935, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

TESTUDINES — TURTLES

APALONE SPINIFERA GUADALUPENSIS (Guadalupe Spiny Soft-shelled Turtle). SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 0.20 air mi SW along Deep Creek (32.71593°N, 100.92005°W), 2294 ft elev. May 1991. M. S. Price. TNHC 92919, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

APALONE SPINIFERA GUADALUPENSIS (Guadalupe Spiny Soft-shelled Turtle). STERLING Co.: Sterling City, 3.33 air mi SE in North Concho River (31.80288°N, 100.94389°W), 2198 ft elev. 18 June 2015. M. S. Price. TNHC 95424. Fills distributional gap.

GRAPTEMYS VERSA (Texas Map Turtle). STERLING Co.: Sterling City, 3.33 air mi SE in North Concho River (31.80288°N, 100.94389°W), 2198 ft elev. 5 May 2010. M. S. Price. TNHC 92937, photo voucher. Extends distributional record.

KINOSTERNON FLAVESCENS (Yellow Mud Turtle). CROCKETT Co.: Ozona, 24.01 air mi N on SH 163 (31.04931°N, 101.16528°W), 2661 ft elev. 13 May 2009. M. S. Price. TNHC 92910, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

PSEUDEMYS TEXANA (Texas River Cooter). STERLING Co.: Sterling City, 3.33 air mi SE in North Concho River (31.80288°N, 100.94389°W), 2198 ft elev. 20 April 2013. M. S. Price. TNHC 95429, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

STERNOTHERUS ODORATUS (Eastern Musk Turtle). STERLING Co.: Sterling City, 3.33 air mi SE in North Concho River (31.80288°N, 100.94389°W), 2198 ft elev. 5 May 2010. M. S. Price. TNHC 92946, photo voucher. Extends distributional record.

TERREPENE ORNATA ORNATA (Ornate Box Turtle). UPTON Co.: McCamey, 19.30 air mi NNW on SH 329 (31.40741°N, 102.28381°W), 2610 ft elev. June 1997. M. S. Price and D. B. Wuerch. TNHC 92942, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

TRACHEMYS SCRIPTA ELEGANS (Red-eared Slider). STERLING Co.: Sterling City, 3.33 air mi SE in North Concho River (31.80288°N, 100.94389°W), 2198 ft elev. 5 May 2010. M. S. Price. TNHC 92938, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

SQUAMATA — LIZARDS

ASPIDOSCELIS SEXLINEATA VIRIDIS (Prairie Racerunner). SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 0.53 air mi SW at private residence (32.71478°N, 100.92600°W), 2320 ft elev. April 1993. M. S. Price. TNHC 92920, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

ASPIDOSCELIS TESSELATA (Common Checkered Whiptail). MIDLAND Co.: Midland, 3.62 air mi SW on the premises of the I-20 Wildlife Preserve (31.96178°N, 102.12337°W), 2826 ft elev. 25 April 2014. M. S. Price and B. Williams. TNHC 95422. Extends distributional record.

HOLBROOKIA MACULATA MACULATA (Great Plains Earless Lizard). SCURRY Co.: Hermleigh, 4.82 SW on CR 4146 (32.57274°N, 100.79597°W), 2332 ft elev. April 1993. M. S. Price. TNHC 92930, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

HEMIDACTYLUS TURCICUS (Mediterranean House Gecko). MIDLAND Co.: Midland, 3.18 air mi SW on the premises of the I-20 Wildlife Preserve (31.96607°N, 102.11764°W), 2815 ft elev. 18 April 2015. M. S. Price, N. M. Price, T. M. Dimler, and H. McMillan. TNHC 95423. Extends distributional record. STERLING Co.: Sterling City, on Dairy Queen building (31.83588°N, 100.98355°W), 2284 ft elev. 16 October 2012. M. S. Price. TNHC 89546. Extends distributional record. SUTTON Co.: Sonora, Jct. of IH-10 & U.S. Hwy. 277 (30.58036°N, 100.64621°W), 2138 ft elev. 19 May 2011. M. S. Price and N. M. Price. TNHC 89547. Fills distributional gap.

PLESTIODON OBSOLETUS (Great Plains Skink). MIDLAND Co.: Midland, 3.43 air mi SW on the premises of the I-20 Wildlife Preserve (31.96482°N, 102.12223°W), 2810 ft elev. 9 September 2010.

M. S. Price and N. Knowles. TNHC 95428, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

SQUAMATA — SNAKES

AGKISTRODON CONTORTRIX LATICINCTUS (Broad-banded Copperhead). RUNNELS Co.: Paint Rock, 12.68 air mi E (31.49230°N, 99.70584°W), 1566 ft elev. May 2002. M. S. Price and R.L. Dearth. TNHC 89748. Extends distributional range.

ARIZONA ELEGANS ELEGANS (Kansas Glossy Snake). SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 7.10 air mi S on Round Top Road (32.61551°N, 100.91970°W), 2267 ft elev. May 2004. M. S. Price. TNHC 92929, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

COLUBER CONSTRICTOR FLAVIVENTRIS (Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer). BORDEN Co.: Gail, 4.49 air mi WSW on private ranch (32.76017°N, 101.52193°W), 2559 ft elev. 18 July 2012. T. M. Dimler. TNHC 92906, photo voucher. Extends distributional range.

CROTALUS LEPIDUS LEPIDUS (Mottled Rock Rattlesnake). SCHLEICHER Co.: Eldorado, 15.37 air mi SW on RM 2129 (30.74197°N, 100.81969°W), 2382 ft elev. 8 April 2009. M. S. Price and N. M. Price. TNHC 84918. Extends distributional range.

CROTALUS VIRIDIS (Prairie Rattlesnake). SCURRY Co.: Hermleigh, 5.41 air mi SSW on CR 4136 (32.55796°N, 100.77467°W), 2352 ft elev. 14 October 2011. M. S. Price. TNHC 89750. Fills distributional gap.

DIADOPHIS PUNCTATUS REGALIS (Regal Ring-necked Snake). BORDEN Co.: Gail, 4.68 air mi WNW on private ranch (32.78703°N, 101.52444°W), 2639 ft elev. 19 October 2012. T. M. Dimler. TNHC 89745. Fills distributional gap. SCURRY Co.: Hermleigh, 5.67 air mi WNW on private ranch (32.55937°N, 100.79331°W), 2356 ft elev. May 1991. M. S. Price. TNHC 92931, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

DRYMARCHON MELANURUS (Central American Indigo Snake). SUTTON Co.: 0.70 air mi SE of IH-10 & U.S. Hwy. 277 (corner of Water & Pecan St. in Sonora) (30.56933°N, 100.64261°W), 2118 ft elev. 19 September 2009. M. S. Price and M. H. Humphrey. TNHC 84899. Extends distributional range.

GYALOPION CANUM (Chihuahuan Hook-nosed Snake). MIDLAND Co.: Midland, 11.94 air mi SE on SCR 1160 (31.84537°N, 101.98024°W), 2691 ft elev. 24 June 2014. M. S. Price and A. Barentse. TNHC 95421. Fills distributional gap. UPTON Co.: McCamey, 9.7 air mi NNE on private ranch (31.26706°N, 102.17448°W), 2819 ft elev. October 1996. M. S. Price and D. B. Wuerch. TNHC 92943, photo voucher. Extends distributional range.

HETERODON PLATIRHINOS (Eastern Hog-nosed Snake). BORDEN Co.: Gail, 11.89 air mi NE on private ranch (32.91631°N, 101.3366°W), 2654 ft elev. 22 September 2004. T. M. Dimler. TNHC 92907, photo voucher. Extends distributional record. SCHLEICHER Co.: Eldorado, 9.49 air mi E on US 190 (30.87105°N, 100.44167°W), 2303 ft elev. 30 June 2010. M. S. Price and B. Vanecek. TNHC 92918, photo voucher. Extends distributional record.

HYPSIGLENA JANI (Chihuahuan Nightsnake). MIDLAND Co.: Midland, 6.96 air mi SSW on SCR 1210 (31.89644°N, 102.08528°W),

2743 ft elev. 24 June 2014. M. S. Price and A. Barentse. Fills distributional gap. SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 2.46 air mi SE on Brick Plant Road (32.69548°N, 100.88486°W), 2292 ft elev. June 1992. M. S. Price. TNHC 92924, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap. UPTON Co.: Rankin, 13.54 air mi NW on SH 329 (31.33071°N, 102.12911°W), 2785 ft elev. June 1997. M. S. Price and D. B. Wuerch. TNHC 92940, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

LAMPROPELTIS ALTERNA (Gray-banded Kingsnake). UPTON Co.: McCamey, 11.08 air mi NE on private ranch (31.28823°N, 102.17560°W), 3030 ft elev. May 1995. M. S. Price and D. B. Wuerch. TNHC 95426, photo voucher. Extends distributional range.

LAMPROPELTIS GETULA SPLENDIDA (Desert Kingsnake). UPTON Co.: McCamey, 19.31 air mi NNW on SH 329 (31.40625°N, 102.29046°W), 2607 ft elev. June 1997. M. S. Price and D. B. Wuerch. TNHC 92941, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

LAMPROPELTIS TRIANGULUM (Milksnake). ECTOR Co.: Penwell, 2.78 air mi SSE on RM 1601 (31.70203°N, 102.57582°W), 2879 ft elev. May 1997. M. S. Price and M. Adcox. TNHC 92911, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap. GAINES Co.: Seminole, 19.76 air mi SW on CR 324 (32.55763°N, 102.92518°W), 3418 ft elev. August 2004. M. S. Price and M. Webb. TNHC 92912, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap. GARZA Co.: Post, 12.91 air mi SW on CR 308 (33.06578°N, 101.54392°W), 2844 ft elev. May 1998. M. S. Price and T. Reagan. TNHC 92913, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap. HOCKLEY Co.: Sundown, 4.62 air mi SE on SH 41 (33.40673°N, 102.43520°W), 3491 ft elev. April 1998. M. S. Price and K. Howard. TNHC 92915, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap. TAYLOR Co.: Hamby, just west on private residence (32.51846°N, 99.63183°W), 1735 ft elev. May 1991. B. Baldwin. TNHC 92939, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

MASTICOPHIS TAENIATUS GIRARDI (Central Texas Whipsnake). UPTON Co.: McCamey, 9.7 air mi NNE on private ranch (31.26706°N, 102.17448°W), 2819 ft elev. October 1996. M. S. Price and D. B. Wuerch. TNHC 92944, photo voucher. Extends distributional range.

NERODIA RHOMBIFER (Diamond-backed Watersnake). STERLING Co.: Sterling City, 3.33 air mi SE in North Concho River (31.80288°N, 100.94389°W), 2198 ft elev. 5 May 2010. M. S. Price and N. M. Price. TNHC 89752. Extends distributional record.

PANTHEROPHIS EMORYI (Great Plains Ratsnake). SCURRY Co.: Dunn, 1.33 air mi NW on RM 1606 (32.57362°N, 100.90688°W), 2184 ft elev. April 1993. M. S. Price. TNHC 92926, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

PITUOPHIS CATENIFER SAYI (Bullsnake). UPTON Co.: McCamey, 9.7 air mi NNE on private ranch (31.26706°N, 102.17448°W), 2819 ft elev. October 1996. M. S. Price and D. B. Wuerch. TNHC 92945, photo voucher. Extends distributional range.

REGINA GRAHAMII (Graham's Crayfish Snake). SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 2.47 air mi S on the premises of Western Texas College Golf Course (32.68208°N, 100.91808°W), 2304 ft elev. October 1986. M. S. Price. TNHC 92936, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

SISTRURUS CATENATUS (Massasauga). BORDEN Co.: Gail, 18.26 air mi SE on RM 1785 (32.55636°N, 101.26105°W), 2317 ft elev. 5 September 2010. T. M. Dimler. TNHC 89754. Fills distributional gap. CRANE Co.: Crane, 14.70 air mi NW on RM 1233 (31.50763°N,

102.56322°W), 2679 ft elev. 7 October 2008. M. S. Price and M. Webb. TNHC 92909, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap. GLASSCOCK Co.: Garden City, 3.45 air mi SSE on County Road 270 (31.81828°N, 101.45742°W), 2587 ft elev. 2 July 2009. M. S. Price. TNHC 84934. Fills distributional gap. SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 10.7 air mi W on CR 370 (32.72388°N, 101.10137°W), 2423 ft elev. April 1991. M. S. Price. TNHC 92928, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

SONORA SEMIANNULATA (Variable Groundsnake). STERLING Co.: Sterling City, 16.91 air mi SSE on RM 2034 (31.57941°N, 100.92093°W), 2460 ft elev. 10 April 2009. M. S. Price. TNHC 84901. Fills distributional gap.

TANTILLA CUCULLATA (Trans-Pecos Black-headed Snake). CROCKETT Co.: Ozona, 29.32 air mi SW on RM 2083 (30.35988°N, 101.49351°W), 1914 ft elev. 20 May 2009. M. S. Price and S. Gelsomino. TNHC 95427, photo voucher. Extends distributional record.

TANTILLA GRACILIS (Flat-headed Snake). STERLING Co.: Sterling City, 19.02 air mi SSE on RM 2034 (31.56498°N, 100.92743°W), 2402 ft elev. 9 April 2009. M. S. Price. TNHC 84902. Extends distributional record.

TANTILLA HOBARTSMITHI (Smith's Black-headed Snake). STERLING Co.: Sterling City, 18.30 air mi SSE on RM 2034 (31.57941°N, 100.92093°W), 2460 ft elev. 9 April 2009. M. S. Price. TNHC 84917. Extends distributional record.

TANTILLA NIGRICEPS (Plains Black-headed Snake). STERLING Co.: Sterling City, 3.4 air mi SE on RM 2034 (31.81718°N, 100.93689°W), 2292 ft elev. 9 April 2009. M. S. Price. TNHC 84903. Fills distributional gap.

THAMNOPHIS PROXIMUS (Western Ribbonsnake). SCURRY Co.: Snyder, 13.62 air mi ENE on RM 1614 (32.73937°N, 100.68519°W), 2181 ft elev. July 1994. M. S. Price. TNHC 92923, photo voucher. Fills distributional gap.

Acknowledgments.—Many thanks need to be bestowed upon T. J. LaDuc, who undoubtedly spent countless hours verifying identifications as well as preparing corresponding specimens for this note. We would also like to thank the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department who granted permits that allowed us to photograph, collect, and/or preserve specimens, including those listed by the state as threatened. Thanks go to the following individuals who assisted us in the field: M. Adcox, B. Baldwin, A. Barentse, K. Conder, R. Dearth, H. Escobar, S. Gelsomino, K. Howard, M. Humphrey, N. Knowles, H. McMillan, A. Price, N. M. Price, N. R. Price, S. Price, T. Reagan, B. Vanecek, M. Webb, B. Williams, and D. Wuerch.

LITERATURE CITED

- CROTHER, B. I. (ed.). 2012. Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in our Understanding. 7th ed. SSAR Herpetol. Circ. 39:1–101.
- DIXON, J. R. 2013. Amphibians and Reptiles of Texas: with Keys, Taxonomic Synopses, Bibliography, and Distribution Maps. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas. 447 pp.