One Hundred Two New County Records for Amphibians and Reptiles in Alabama, USA

The diversity and distribution of Alabama’s amphibians and reptiles was first examined comprehensively in Mount’s (1975) regional field guide. In subsequent years, however, less effort was invested into general inventory of the state’s herpetofauna. Interest in generating a thorough documentation of Alabama’s herpetofauna has re-emerged in the last decade. In particular, an impressive effort by Graham et al. (2009) documented 101 new county records for the state, and their inspiring efforts appear to have spurred other significant projects, such as inventories in Tuskegee National Forest (Graham et al. 2012), Pike County (Burchill and Diamond 2014), and northern Alabama (Sutton et al. 2014). Despite the renewed interest, few counties within Alabama have been sampled extensively, and large distributional gaps still remain for the majority of species in the state.

In anticipation of a forthcoming revision to Mount (1975), we sought to further the spirit of our Auburn colleagues by compiling a series of new county records of amphibians and reptiles throughout Alabama. We accrued novel observations and specimens during research activities, nocturnal road-cruising surveys, class field trips, and targeted collecting trips to under-sampled areas. Here we report 102 new county records during research activities, nocturnal road-cruising surveys, class field trips, and targeted collecting trips to under-sampled areas. Here we report 102 new county records for Alabama, which includes at least one new county record for 52 species. Records were vouchered as specimens or digital photographs and were deposited into the Herpetological Collections of the Auburn University Museum of Natural History.

---

BRIAN FOLT*
Department of Biological Sciences and Auburn University Museum of Natural History, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849, USA

DAVID LAURENIO
Auburn University Museum of Natural History, Department of Biological Sciences, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849, USA

JEFFREY M. GOESSLING
Department of Biological Sciences, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849, USA

ROGER D. BIRKHEAD
COSAM Outreach, Alabama Science in Motion, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849-5414, USA

JAMES STILES
Alabama Natural Heritage Program and Auburn University Museum of Natural History, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849, USA

ASHLEY TYLER HARRIS
Department of Biological Sciences, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849, USA

STANTON BELFORD
Division of Mathematics and Sciences, Martin Methodist College, Pulaski, Tennessee 38478, USA

*Corresponding author; e-mail: brian.folt@gmail.com

---

CAUDATA — SALAMANDERS


PLETHODON WEBSTERI (Webster's Salamander). USA: ALABAMA: RANDOLPH CO.: In ravine 0.07 air km SW of intersection of CR 15, CR 889, and railroad tracks (33.19665°N, 85.57873°W). Found by raking leaf litter on hardwood slope. 16 March 2015. R. Birkhead. AUM 40144.


ANURA — FROGS


CROCODYLIA — CROCODILIANS


TESTUDINES — TURTLES


TERRAPENE CAROLINa (Eastern Box Turtle). USA: ALABAMA: CHEROKEE CO.: 0.47 road km N of CR 308 on CR 33 just south of McFrey Crossroads (33.98982°N, 85.57805°W). 26 August 2014. R. Birkhead. AUM–O 4819. DOR.


SQUAMATA — LIZARDS


SQUAMATA — SNAKES

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

USA:


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—We thank C. Ward for reviewing the manuscript and those who contributed records reported here. Recognition is also deserved to Craig Guyer, who verified the records and encouraged this project. War eagle! Museum specimens were collected with permission from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (Scientific Permit 7587) and under the guidelines of Auburn University IACUC #2010–1827.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—We thank C. Ward for reviewing the manuscript and those who contributed records reported here. Recognition is also deserved to Craig Guyer, who verified the records and encouraged this project. War eagle! Museum specimens were collected with permission from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (Scientific Permit 7587) and under the guidelines of Auburn University IACUC #2010–1827.

LITERATURE CITED


