

New Amphibian and Reptile Parish Records from Louisiana, USA

Dundee and Rossman (1989) published distribution maps of Louisiana amphibians and reptiles over 30 years ago. Since then, many records have been published, mostly in *Herpetological Review*, documenting additions to these original maps. Though many are single species additions, several compilations of new Louisiana records have been published (e.g., Boundy 1994, 1998, 2004; Rosenzweig et al. 2007; Boundy and Gregory 2012; Battaglia et al. 2015). Here, I report a total of 22 records that help to fill distributional gaps primarily in southern Louisiana. Most records are a result of targeted surveys during work projects or opportunistic encounters by the author. Those records where the author is not listed as an observer were submitted by others to the author via email. All records are photo vouchers deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida (UF). Charles D. Battaglia and Coleman Sheehy verified species identification. All records represent new parish records unless otherwise stated as determined by a list compiled by now-retired LDWF state herpetologist Jeff Boundy and through queries at VertNet (www.vertnet.org).

CAUDATA — SALAMANDERS

AMPHIUMA TRIDACTYLUM (Three-toed Amphiuma). SABINE PARISH: Bayou Toro at US-171 (31.38711°N, 93.43979°W; WGS 84). 25 January 2017. Brad M. Glorioso and Lindy J. Muse. UF 191101. Individual captured in a minnow trap as part of a project on aquatic salamanders (350 mm SVL, 462 mm TL, 93 g). An undated record exists for Sabine Parish (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution [USNM] 6300) ca. 25.0 km N of this location, so this record serves as the first record with complete data on time and place of capture. The next nearest records are from 103.5 km NNE in Bienville Parish, Louisiana (Louisiana Museum of Natural History, Louisiana State University [LSUMZ] 96449), and from 56.0 km NW in Shelby County, Texas Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collection, Texas A&M University [TCWC] 37727).

HEMIDACTYLIUM SCUTATUM (Four-toed Salamander). LIVINGSTON PARISH: Halfway between Walker and Port Vincent, west of Walker South Road (LA-447) and just south of Arbor Walk Drive (30.405°N, 90.857°W; WGS 84). 11 April 2020. Britany Dufresne, Aaron Blount, Annabel Daigle, and Thomas Blount. UF 191102. Adult found under a small piece of decaying pine log in a mixed forest ca. 200 m from sphagnum moss patches. This is a very rare species in Louisiana, with only a few known extant populations in East Feliciana, East Baton Rouge, and Ascension Parishes (Boundy and Carr 2017). The nearest records are 13.8 km S in Ascension Parish (LSUMZ 59524), 18.7 km NW in East Baton Rouge Parish (LSUMZ 80937, 84401), and 43.9 km N in East Feliciana

Parish (LSUMZ 82992). This record extends the range of the species in the western Florida Parishes eastward. Unfortunately, within months of discovering this individual and potential population the woodlot was cleared for development.

NOTOPHTHALMUS VIRIDESCENS (Eastern Newt). ST. BERNARD PARISH: St. Bernard State Park (29.86021°N, 89.90108°W; WGS 84). 19 September 2016. Brad M. Glorioso, Lindy J. Muse, and Sergio Merino. UF 191103. Thirty aquatic adult individuals captured by dipnet for a chytrid surveillance project. This species occurs statewide in appropriate habitats, and this record fills in the only remaining parish without a documented record in southeast Louisiana, leaving just three parishes without documented records in the state. The nearest record is 12.6 km WNW in Orleans Parish (Museum of Biology, Southeastern Louisiana University [SLU] 6172-5).

ANURA — FROGS

ELEUTHERODACTYLUS PLANIROSTRIS (Greenhouse Frog). ST. CHARLES PARISH: 1100 block of River Road in St. Rose (29.975°N, 90.282°W; WGS 84). 20 September 2018. Brad M. Glorioso, Britany R. Maldonado, Kelsey Macedo, and Ian Morenc. UF 191104–191106. Several individuals observed on this private property at night during surveys for Cuban Treefrogs on this date as well as future visits on 20 May 2019 and 14 August 2019. This exotic species was first recorded in Louisiana from Orleans Parish in the 1970s (Plotkin and Atkinson 1979) but has since expanded to several parishes in southern Louisiana (Meshaka et al. 2009). This record fills in the gap between a St. John the Baptist Parish record 19.25 km NW (Boundy 1998) and a Jefferson Parish record 13.45 km ENE of this record (LSUMZ 54659).

HYLA CHRYSOSCELIS (Cope's Gray Treefrog). JEFFERSON PARISH: Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, Barataria Unit (29.784°N, 90.112°W; WGS 84). 12 December 2017. Brad M. Glorioso and Lindy J. Muse. UF 191107. Individual discovered behind an automated recording unit placed near Bayou des Familles. Though the similar looking Bird-voiced Treefrog is very common in the Barataria Unit, the Cope's Gray Treefrog is rarely detected. The nearest record is 37 km W in St. Charles Parish (Carnegie Museum of Natural History [CM] 28962).

HYLA VERSICOLOR (Gray Treefrog). CALCASIEU PARISH: Sam Houston Jones State Park (30.297°N, 93.269°W; WGS 84). 13 July 2014. Brad M. Glorioso, Philip Vanbergen, and Eric Vanbergen. UF 191108. Thunderstorms were passing through the area and both Cope's Gray Treefrogs and Gray Treefrogs were calling intensely along with several other species, including out-of-season Cajun Chorus Frogs. We located one of the calling Gray Treefrogs for photos and documented the species with a couple audio recordings as well. A previous call-only record from 1992 exists for this parish 30.4 km WNW of this record (Macaulay Library of Nature Sounds, Cornell University [MLNS] 187654).

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CROCODYLIA — CROCODILIANS

ALLIGATOR MISSISSIPPIENSIS (American Alligator). WEST FELICIANA PARISH: Golf course pond (30.79729°N, 91.24266°W; WGS 84). 15 July 2016. Kevin D. Wood. UF 191109. At least six individuals have been observed in Thompson Creek and ponds of adjacent Bluffs on Thompson Creek Golf Course. The nearest record is 37.0 km S in West Baton Rouge Parish (CM 91834).

JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH: Bayou Lacassine at Lorraine Road (30.12979°N, 92.90716°W; WGS 84). 28 October 2019. Brad Glorioso, Brittany R. Maldonado, and Raymond P. Kidder. UF 191110. Several individuals observed basking over three days on both sides of the bayou, which forms the border between Jefferson Davis and Calcasieu Parish in this area. The nearest record is 56.6 km SSE in Cameron Parish (CM 156673).

TESTUDINES — TURTLES

GRAPTEMYS SABINENSIS (Sabine Map Turtle). JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH: Bayou Lacassine at Lorraine Road (30.12979°N, 92.90716°W; WGS 84). 28 October 2019. Brad Glorioso, Brittany R. Maldonado, and Raymond P. Kidder. UF 191111. Several dozen individuals observed basking over three days on both sides of the bayou, which forms the border between Jefferson Davis and Calcasieu Parish in this area. The nearest record is 17.7 km SE in Cameron Parish (UF 170256).

PSEUDEMYS CONCINNA (River Cooter). IBERIA PARISH: Spanish Lake (30.04808°N, 91.84932°W; WGS 84). 16 January 2017. Brad M. Glorioso, Da'Vonne Griffin, and Beanie Villerman. UF 191115, 191116. Juveniles, adult males, and adult females were observed basking on logs in the borrow pit adjacent to the levee surrounding the lake. The nearest record is 18.8 km WNW in Lafayette Parish (LSUMZ 74179).

ST. BERNARD PARISH: 3700 block of Volpe Drive in Chalmette (29.950°N, 89.944°W; WGS 84). 19 June 2019. Bob Adsett. UF 191117. Adult female found in morning under vehicle, likely en route to or from nesting. The author has noted the abundance of these turtles in the drainage canals of Chalmette since he was a young boy in the late 1980s. The nearest record is W in Orleans Parish, but there is no precision to this record (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University [MCZ] R-1636).

VERMILION PARISH: Palmetto Island State Park (29.85991°N, 92.14075°W; WGS 84). 2 March 2014. Brad M. Glorioso and Philip Vanbergen. UF 191112, 191113. Hatchling observed basking on Lafleur Pond during a citizen science survey. An adult was also observed on this date on the far side of the Vermilion River, ca. 1 km northeast of the hatchling. Limer (1954) states that a specimen prescribed to this species was collected in Vermilion Parish (Tulane University Museum of Natural History [TU] 1104). However, this record does not appear in Dundee and Rossman (1989) for unknown reasons. Regardless, this species is not uncommon in this parish and was observed several times during the project at Palmetto Island. The nearest mapped record is 28.3 km NNE in Lafayette Parish (LSUMZ 74179).

WEST FELICIANA PARISH: golf course pond (30.79745°N, 91.24398°W; WGS 84). 15 July 2016. Kevin D. Wood. UF 191114. At least four individuals have been observed in the ponds of adjacent Bluffs on Thompson Creek Golf Course. This record precedes in date the record of Selman et al. (2018) located 23.7 km SE of this record (UF 180341).

SQUAMATA — LIZARDS

ANOLIS SAGREI (Brown Anole). ST. CHARLES PARISH: 1100 block of River Road in St. Rose (29.975°N, 90.282°W; WGS 84). 14 August 2019. Brad M. Glorioso, Brittany R. Maldonado, Raymond Kidder, and Ian Morenc. UF 191118, 191119. Many individuals observed on this private property on multiple trips both before and after this photo record. This exotic species is expanding its range in southern Louisiana, and this record fills in a gap in southeast Louisiana between Lafourche Parish to the south and Jefferson Parish to the east. The nearest record is 6.1 km E in Jefferson Parish (LSUMZ 47967).

HEMIDACTYLUS PARVIMACULATUS (Sri Lankan Spotted House Gecko). ASCENSION PARISH: convenience store off Interstate 10 at LA-30. (30.21029°N, 90.94276°W; WGS 84). 15 August 2019. Brad M. Glorioso, Brittany R. Maldonado, and Raymond P. Kidder. UF 191123. Six individuals observed on the building walls and were tail clipped for genetic analysis. This parish record is 53 km west of published Tangipahoa (Erdmann 2017) and St. John the Baptist (Borgardt 2016) records, and only 13 km northwest of the St. James Parish record below.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH: Sharlo Avenue in Baton Rouge (30.38913°N, 91.184828°W; WGS 84). 27 March 2018. Connor Reinoso. LSUMZ 113768. Observed while jogging on the road. This parish record is 17.4 km NNW of the Ascension Parish record above. On 15 August 2019, an additional six individuals from this parish were observed on the walls of a convenience store off Interstate 10 at LA-42 (30.34871°N, 91.02811°W; WGS 84) and tail-clipped for genetic analysis and released. Brad M. Glorioso, Brittany R. Maldonado, and Raymond P. Kidder. UF 191120. These additional records are 15.7 km west of the preceding East Baton Rouge Parish record.

ST. JAMES PARISH: convenience store off LA-70 near the intersection with LA-3125 (30.10923°N, 90.87315°W; WGS 84). 14 August 2019. Brad M. Glorioso, Brittany R. Maldonado, and Raymond P. Kidder. UF 191122. Seven individuals observed on the building walls and were tail clipped for genetic analysis and released. This record is 13 km southeast of the Ascension Parish record above.

WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH: convenience store off Interstate 10 at LA-415 (30.45221°N, 91.24541°W; WGS 84). 15 August 2019. Brad M. Glorioso, Brittany R. Maldonado, and Raymond P. Kidder. UF 191124. Six individuals observed on the building walls and were tail clipped for genetic analysis and released. This record extends the range westward across the Mississippi River and is 9.1 km northwest of the East Baton Rouge Parish records from the convenience store above.

This species was first recorded in the United States from the New Orleans area in 2012 (Heckard et al. 2013). Since its original detection in Orleans Parish, this species has now been documented in seven additional parishes in Louisiana: Jefferson and St. John the Baptist Parishes (Borgardt 2015, 2016), St. Tammany Parish (Glorioso 2016), Tangipahoa Parish (Erdmann 2017), Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes (McClure 2019; Pellicchia et al. 2019), and St. Charles Parish (Pellicchia et al. 2019). In addition, Davis and LaDuc (2019) documented records in two Texas counties (Chambers and Orange) and Pellicchia and Benson (2019) documented the species in a Mississippi county (Neshoba). We captured the geckos in these records during targeted nighttime searches at convenience stores due to their public nature, well-lit walls providing ease of capture,

and their proximity to well-traveled major highways. These new records occur near the I-10 corridor west of the New Orleans area through Baton Rouge, further extending the range in southeast Louisiana. This cryptic species is likely to occur over a wider area than currently recognized.

HEMIDACTYLUS TURCICUS (Mediterranean Gecko). ST. BERNARD PARISH: 2400 block of Lyndell Drive in Chalmette (29.939°N, 89.958°W; WGS 84). 15 February 2005. Brad M. Glorioso. UF 191125, 191126. Observed on the walls at night of this private residence. These geckos have been abundant in St. Bernard Parish for decades prior to this record, which fills in the last parish without a documented occurrence in the Greater New Orleans Region. The nearest records are 10.8 km W in Orleans Parish and 6 km SSE in Plaquemines Parish (North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences [NCSM] 8476).

PLESTIODON INEXPECTATUS (Southeastern Five-lined Skink). ORLEANS PARISH: Audubon Zoo (29.92342°N, 90.13355°W; WGS 84). 18 March 2019. Brad M. Glorioso, Brittany R. Maldonado, Raymond P. Kidder, and Robert W. Mendyk. UF 191127. Adult found under a large piece of plywood. No other individuals have been found thus far, and though they do occur north of Lake Ponchartrain, we believe that this individual is likely a transplant, perhaps from horticultural shipments, from somewhere further east within their native range and not representative of a reproducing population. The nearest record is 46.5 km N in St. Tammany Parish (LSUMZ 5354).

SQUAMATA — SNAKES

INDOTYPHLOPS BRAMINUS (Brahminy Blindsnake). LAFAYETTE PARISH: 100 block of Glynnwood Avenue in Lafayette (30.206°N, 92.048°W; WGS 84). 2 October 2013. Stephen Fournet. UF 191128. Individual found while working in yard. This occurrence and one that escaped capture in summer 2012 coincided with a severe infestation of crazy ants (*Nylanderia* sp.), of which the eggs, larvae and pupae would be prey. No other individuals have been found despite a targeted search shortly after this October 2013 record and again in the spring of 2015. There are few documented parish records in Louisiana, with the first being in Orleans Parish (Thomas 1994) and a subsequent record from Orleans (LSUMZ 56317), and two from Lafourche Parish (LSUMZ 94794, 94795). However, this species is likely more widespread than currently recognized, especially in the major cities and suburbs in southern Louisiana. The nearest record is 126 km ESE in Lafourche Parish (LSUMZ 94794).

LAMPROPELTIS GENTILIS (Western Milksnake). IBERIA PARISH: Avery Island's Jungle Gardens Drive near Buddha statue (29.90879°N, 91.91653°W; WGS 84). 19 June 2018. James Haryett and Mike Brasher. UF 191130. Observed active during the day on leaf litter. This coastal parish record from a salt dome fills in a large gap of records in south-central Louisiana. The nearest record is N in Lafayette Parish, but there is no precision to this record (UF 116203).

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