



10TH ANNUAL FALL L.A.R.E. FIELD TRIP

NOVEMBER 12, 2022

BLUE HOLE RECREATION COMPLEX
VERNON UNIT, CALCASIEU DISTRICT
KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST



BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): BRAD 'BONES' GLORIOSO, CLIFF WATERS, NATALIE WATERS, JASON PUMA, CHARLES BATTAGLIA, MATT SIEJA, MICAH CEFALU **FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):** AMBER GIGANTI, GIDEON GIGANTI, GRIFFIN GIGANTI, AIDAN PHILLIPS, WILLIAM CARROLL

TRIP DETAILS

The group met at 9:30 a.m. at the parking area of Blue Hole Recreation Complex in Kisatchie National Forest in Vernon Parish. It was pretty cold and very windy in the parking area but warmed up throughout the trip. We first checked a small pond adjacent to the parking lot and quickly found plenty of Blanchard's Cricket Frogs. We then hiked around Blue Hole and into the woods, eventually turning up our only salamander species of the trip, the Western Dwarf Salamander. Conditions were very dry and very few ephemeral pools were found and no moisture under most cover really hurt our chances for salamanders. We did turn up a few lizards as we were searching. Past hurricanes made it difficult to get down to the creek so we got back in our vehicles and made our way to the stream crossing on the main highway. There we encountered many of the same conditions but did manage to flip a Dekay's Brownsnake, an Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad, and we also saw a DOR Western Ribbonsnake. Jason went off on his own at the original meet spot and was not around when we left to the stream crossing. The field trip was ending in the mid-afternoon and everyone was heading home except Micah who wanted to head back to find Jason and do some more herping. Shortly thereafter Jason called Bones saying he was lost in the woods so we turned around and headed back. He was nearly back to the parking lot by the time we got there. Through his ordeal he added a Green Frog and a Southern Watersnake to our totals. He had seen some unidentified turtles earlier and he and Micah found a few other things after the trip ended. The tenth L.A.R.E. fall field trip had 12 attendees, and we detected 10 species of amphibians and reptiles. The drought really hurt our productivity but folks seemed to have a good time nonetheless!

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES DETECTED

WESTERN DWARF SALAMANDER	<i>EURYCEA PALUDICOLA</i>	4
BLANCHARD'S CRICKET FROG	<i>ACRIS BLANCHARDI</i>	46
EASTERN NARROW-MOUTHED TOAD	<i>GASTROPHRYNE CAROLINENSIS</i>	1
GREEN FROG	<i>LITHOBATES CLAMITANS</i>	1
COMMON FIVE-LINED SKINK	<i>PLESTIODON FASCIATUS</i>	1
PRAIRIE LIZARD	<i>SCELOPORUS CONSOBRINUS</i>	1
LITTLE BROWN SKINK	<i>SCINCELLA LATERALIS</i>	6
SOUTHERN WATERSNAKE	<i>NERODIA FASCIATA</i>	1
DEKAY'S BROWNSNAKE	<i>STORERIA DEKAYI</i>	1
WESTERN RIBBONSNAKE	<i>THAMNOPHIS PROXIMUS</i>	1 (DOR)