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The Western Lesser Siren in Michigan

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*Bufo*, *Gastrophryne*, and *Rana* from the above locality are indistinguishable from the living genera. It thus seems possible that the Hylidae are a comparatively plastic and rapidly evolving group.—J. ALAN HOLMAN, *Department of Biology, Howard College, Birmingham, Alabama*.

THE WESTERN LESSER SIREN IN MICHIGAN.—Two specimens of the Western Lesser Siren, *Siren intermedia nettingi*, were discovered dead on the shore of Saddle Lake (T.15.R.15W., Sections 15 and 16), Van Buren County, Michigan on June 11, 1958. The lake had been treated with rotenone (1 ppm.) the previous day to remove a carp population. The sirens (University of Michigan Museum of Zoology M118525 and M118526) measured 223 mm. and 151 mm. in total length after preservation and constitute the first known record of this genus from Michigan. Several additional sirens reportedly were found dead at Saddle Lake during the week after treatment.

Pope (1944, *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Chicago Area, Chicago Natural History Museum: 1-275*) stated that the only record of the Western Lesser Siren from the Chicago area "is based on a small specimen from Hebron, Porter County, Indiana and marks the northernmost point reached by this subspecies," Smith and Minton (1957, *Amer. Mid. Nat. 58:341-51*) observed that this "... southern species exhibits distributional patterns correlated with stream drainage" and that "... *Siren intermedia* ... [has] fairly extensive ranges along the major rivers of central Illinois and in the lakes of northern Indiana, especially those associated with the Kankakee and Tippecanoe river systems."

Although Saddle Lake is nearly 300 acres in area, it has quiet, shallow, weed-choked bays which apparently were suitable habitats for sirens. The lake is 43 miles north of the Michigan-Indiana border and drains via Barber Creek northward to the Middle Fork of the Black River in Allegan County. The Black River in turn flows southward into Van Buren County and enters Lake Michigan at South Haven.

There are two possible natural routes by which the siren could have spread to Michigan. In St. Joseph County, Indiana, the northernmost part of the Kankakee drainage adjoins the St. Joseph River drainage; the St. Joseph River flows northward into the State of Michigan, and empties into Lake Michigan at Benton Harbor, at a point only 23 miles south of the mouth of the Black River. A second possible route would be directly from the St. Joseph River to the Paw Paw River at Benton Harbor. In Van Buren County the Paw Paw River drainage approaches

the South Branch of the Black River. There is a distinct possibility that the siren was introduced into Saddle Lake by an angler.—JOHN E. WILLIAMS, *Institute for Fisheries Research, Michigan Department of Conservation, Hastings, Michigan*.

AN ADDITIONAL NOTE ON THE EAR OF *HOLBROOKIA MACULATA*.—Subsequent to the initial description of the middle ear of *Holbrookia maculata* (Earle, 1961, *Copeia:68-74*) several serial sections of adults of this species have been examined. In all sections of adults the extracolumellar process is dorsoventrally lengthened to form an insertion plate which is enveloped in the tympanic membrane posterior to the quadrate. An extracolumellar ligament extends ventrally from the processus paroticus and passes anterolaterally beneath the arched dorsal portion of the quadrate. This ligament then extends ventrally over the insertion plate of the extracolumella.

The glossopharyngeal nerve of *Holbrookia maculata* does not pierce the secondary tympanic membrane as erroneously reported, but emerges through only the connective tissue of this membrane.—A. M. EARLE, *Dept. of Biology, Regis College, Denver, Colo.*

THE SOFTSHELL TURTLE, *TRIONYX SPINIFER*, INTRODUCED AND ESTABLISHED IN NEW JERSEY.—Evidence has gradually accumulated indicating that the spiny softshell turtle is established and reproducing in one of the stream systems of southern New Jersey. Further, I have learned that the original stock was introduced from Indiana during 1910.

The first two softshells brought to my attention, each from a different locality, were not preserved, under the illusion that they represented escapes or recently liberated turtles. Both were measured, however, and exhibited in the Philadelphia Zoological Garden. Later, when hatchlings were discovered, an investigation was instituted the results of which are summarized herewith. Measurements refer to the maximum (straight-line) length of the carapace. Initials and numbers designate those deposited in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History. The localities are in Salem County, New Jersey. Except as noted, all turtles are from Kean's Lake at the town of Elmer.

The following specimens were caught on the dates indicated: July 23, 1949, ♂, 235 mm., taken by hook and line. July 1, 1954, ♀, 380 mm., Palatine Lake, near Palatine, found on the lake shore under circumstances that, in retrospect, suggest she may have been nesting. September