Field Notes

Herpetology trip to Francis Marion NF, SC

6 - 9 October 2011

**6 October 2010**

Departure from Boone 4:15 PM.

**7 October 2010**

Arrival at campsite ca. 2:30 AM

**Site 1**

SC: Berkeley Co.: Francis Marion National Forest (FMNF): Honey Hill Campground, woods along SC 45 near dry pools: near Google Earth (GE) 33° 10.462' N; 79° 33.689' W; elevation 6-8 meters

*Anolis carolinensis* – green anole – several seen in trees along road

*Agkistrodon contortrix* – southern copperhead – 2 in stump hole and 1 crawling

*Deirochelys reticularia* – eastern chicken turtle – 2 shells found by ETSU crowd

MAMMALS:

*Procyon lotor* – raccoon – 1 skull found

**Site 2**

SC: Charleston Co.: Santee Coastal Reserve off E. Santee Road E of US 17 – area near E end of main entrance road – edge of cypress swamps for about 1.5 hours – swamp nearly dry with water only along main drainage stream from boardwalk: Temperature near 70 F, clear. Many mosquitoes. GE 1-2 m elevation: 33° 9.164' N; 79° 22.052' W

*Acris gryllus* – southern cricket frog – several seen and several examined near swamp

*Bufo terrestris* – southern toad - several seen beside swamp along trail

*Rana utricularia* – southern leopard frog - quite a few seen around pools

*Plethodon variolatus* – South Carolina slimy salamander – several of both color morphs (all black   
 and speckled with yellowish white) found under logs near swamps

*Stereocheilus marginatus* – many lined salamander – 2 found in litter in pools

*Siren intermedia* *intermedia* – eastern lesser siren – 3-4 seen in litter at edge of swamp

*Anolis carolinensis* – only a couple seen

*Scincella lateralis* – ground skink - several juveniles observed  
 *Opheodrys aestivus* – keeled green snake – 1 juvenile found

*Coluber constrictor* – southern black racer – 1 adult found at edge of swamp

*Tantilla coronata* – eastern crowned snake - 1 found under a log

*Thamnophis sauritus sauritus* – eastern ribbon snake - 1 juvenile found in flooded woods

*Agkistrodon piscivorus piscivorus* – eastern cottonmouth - 1 young of   
 last year and 1somewhat older one seen

*Alligator mississippiensis* – 1 ca 7’ TL skeleton found along stream

**FISH**

*Anguilla rostrata* – American eel

*Gambusia* – mosquito fish

*Umbra pygmaea* – mud minnow

**7 October 2010**

Bald eagle was seen up close and personal flying over road 204. Ab then saw it with a 4’ long snake in its talons.

**Site 3**

SC: Berkeley Co.: FMNF – McConnel Landing area – swamp edge and adjacent bluff – 2:00-4:30 PM:  
 near GE 33° 14.667' N; 79° 31.215' W; 3-11 meters in elevation.

*Ambystoma opacum* – marbled salamander – many under logs near swamp and at base of bluff –

males with very white crossbands and females with grayish crossbands

*Desmognathus auriculatus* – southern dusky salamander – 1 adult and 1 larva at seepy stream

*Eurycea cirrigera* – southern two-lined salamander – 2-3 adults under logs near seepy stream, 1   
 larva in muck at small stream

*Eurycea guttolineata* – three-lined salamander –seen around swamp, 1 active on surface   
 *Plethodon variolatus* – several seen under logs near swamp

*Bufo terrestris* – southern toad – several juveniles seen

*Anolis carolinensis*

*Eumeces* species–skink - 1 juvenile seen but released

*Scincella lateralis* - observed

*Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata* – yellow ratsnake – 1 small adult seen

*Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix* – 1 adult under log, 1 newborn along bluff

*Agkistrodon piscivorus piscivorus* – 1 adult found coiled near small stream

*Kinosternon bauri* – striped mud turtle – 1 found under a log near seepy stream

SNAILS:

*Mesodon thyroidus* –

*Neohelix solemi* –

*Triodopsis palustris* cf. -

*Xolotrema carolinensis -*

*Ventridens intertextus* –

*Mesomphix globosus* –

*Zonitoides arboreus* -

*Philomycus carolinianus* - juveniles and adults on trees

**Site 4**

SC: Berkeley Co.: FMNF; FS 204 - nearly dry former beaver pond; GE 33° 12.985' N; 79° 33.505'W; 9   
 meters elevation– set three turtle traps

We returned to camp for burrito dinner and preparation for evening walk. No water at campground posed some logistical problems.

**7 October 2010**

**Site 5 (night visit)**

SC: Berkeley Co.: FMNF; Turkey Creek upstream from SC 41: meandering stream mostly dry above bridge; but several pools found; near GE 33° 7.856' N; 79° 46.995' W; near 3 meters in elevation

*Eurycea quadridigitata* – several found under debris along stream

*Plethodon variolatus* - seen

*Ambystoma opacum* – couple seen

*Hyla* species – treefrog tadpoles metamorphosing

*Gastrophryne carolinensis* – tadpoles in pool in stream bed

*Rana catesbeana* – bullfrog – several juveniles seen along stream

*Rana clamitans clamitans* – bronze frog

*Rana utricularia* – southern leopard frog

*Anolis carolinensis* – many, especially juveniles along road

*Coluber constrictor* – shed skin of very large animal found

*Nerodia erythrogaster* – red-bellied water snake – 1 juvenile found along stream

*Agkistrodon piscivorus* – 1 found beside stream near road

*Terrapene carolina* – eastern box turtle – shell found

*Kinosternon subrubrum* – eastern mud turtle – shell found

MAMMALS:

*Peromyscus gossypinus* – cotton mouse - 3-4 adults in one log beside stream

*Castor canadensis* – beaver – skeleton found

**8 October 2010**

Up a little late for breakfast, so did not get away from camp until almost 10:00 AM.

**Site 4**

*Trachemys scripta scripta* – yellow-bellied pond slider – 1 large female in trap

**Site 6**

SC: Berkeley Co.: FMNF – Fox Gully Branch gauging station at Yellowjacket Road – set 2 turtle traps and searched woods for about 90 minutes: clear and about 750 F:near GE 3 m elevation; 33° 8.666' N ; 79° 47.410'W.

*Plethodon variolatus* – several seen

*Bufo terrestris* – several seen

*Hyla femoralis* – pine woods treefrog – juveniles (brownish coloration; dark bar between eyes)

*Hyla squirella* – squirrel treefrog – juveniles seen (bright green dorsum and stout body)

*Anolis carolinensis* – several seen

*Sternotherus odoratus* – common musk turtle or stinkpot turtle – 1 in trap right away

*Scincella lateralis* – several seen

*Coluber constrictor* – shed skin founs (15 rows of smooth scales)

*Lampropeltis getula getula* – eastern kingsnake – shed skin found (many rows of smooth scales   
 and larger size)

*Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides* – scarlet kingsnake – two shed skins found on tree trunks   
 (large number of rows of smooth scales, smaller size, location, pattern visible)

*Agkistrodon contortrix* – 1 newborn seen at base of tree

**8 October 2010**

**Site 6 (continued)**

SNAILS:

*Ventridens intertextus* – common on some rotten logs

*Zonitoides arboreus* – under bark

*Strobilops aeneus* – under bark

*Vertigo* species – under palmetto leaf

*Catinella avara* cf. – under palmetto leaf

*Mesomphix globosus* – several seen under bark on large logs

**Site 7**

SC: Berkeley Co.: FMNF Irishtown Road at Turkey Creek: intermittent creek and surrounding woods. About 2 hours. Temperature near 78 F, clear and sunny. Google Earth 33° 7.585' N; 79° 46.612'W, elevation 4-7 meters elevation.

Ambystoma opacum

*Desmognathus auriculatus* – 1 juvenile under bark at edge of pond and 1 adult under small   
 piece of wood in dry stream bed

*Eurycea quadridigitata* – two found along stream under small logs

*Plethodon variolatus* – many seen

*Bufo terrestris*

*Acris gryllus*

*Rana utricularia*

*Scincella laterale*

*Anolis carolinensis*

*Diadophis punctatus punctatus* – southern ring-neck snake - 1 adult fond in log

*Thamnophis sirtalis* – eastern garter snake – adult female with adult *Bufo terrestris* in stomach

*Agkistrodon piscivorus piscivorus* – 1 seen

*Crotalus horridus* – canebrake rattlesnake – 1 adult seen along stream

*Chelydra serpentina* – common snapping turtle – two skeletons

*Terrapene carolina carolina* – 1 live adult and several shells

MAMMALS:

*Didelphis virginianus* – Virginia opossum – skeleton found

*Sylvilagus floridanus* – eastern cottontail rabbit – 1 seen

*Sus scrofa* – feral pig – much digging associated with these

*Odocoileus virginianus* – white-tail deer - many tracks along stream bed

*Neotoma floridana* – eastern woodrat – 1 adult found in hollow of rotten log

*Castor canadensis* – North American beaver – remains of dams and lodges and feeding seen

SNAILS:

*Ventridens intertextus*

*Zonitoides arboreus*

*Patera perigrapta*

Returned to camp for spaghetti dinner and plans for the evening.

*Crotalus horridus* – canebrake rattlesnake - juvenile found near camp

**8 October 2010**

**Site 8**

SC: Charleston Co.: FMNF area near Elmwood Game Check Station off N end of FS 211: Swamp completely dry and even hard to find: walked along road and around the dry cypress area: near GE

6 meters elevation; 33° 11.913' N; 79° 28.020' W

*Bufo terrestris* – several seen

*Anolis carolinensis*

*Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata* – 1 adult found under bark

*Opheodrys aestivus* – 1 found asleep ca. 20’ up in a hardwood tree

**9 October 2010**

**Site 1**

Walked around campground in light rain for about 45 minutes just after midnight.

*Bufo terrestris*

*Anolis carolinensis*

Photo ops for *Crotalus* after breakfast.

*Deirochelys reticuaria* – shell found

**Site 9**

SC: Berkeley Co.: Honey Hill: property of David Dix: 33° 11.449' N; 79° 34.629' W; 40 feet elevation

*Crotalus horridus* – 1 dead

**Site 10**

SC: Richland Co.: Columbia, Riverbanks Zoo, picnic area in woods

Arriver Riverbanks Zoo for lunch 1:15 PM

Met Scott Pfaff, Curator of Herpetology at Riverbanks Zoo for tour

Left Zoo 4:50 PM

Returned to Boone 8:30 PM

Home 11:00 PM

**Species Encountered**

**Amphibia**

**Anura** **– frogs and toads** species #

Family Bufonidae - toads

*Bufo terrestris* – southern toad 1

Family Hylidae – treefrogs and allies

*Acris gryllus* – southern cricket frog 2

*Hyla femoralis* – pine woods treefrog 3

*Hyla squirella* – squirrel treefrog 4

Family Microhylidae – narrowmouth frogs

*Gastrophryne carolinensis* – eastern narrow-mouth frog 5

Ranidae – true frogs

*Rana catesbeana* – bullfrog 6

*Rana clamitans clamitans* – bronze frog 7

*Rana utricularia* – southern leopard frog 8

**Caudata – salamanders**

Family Ambystomatidae – mole salamanders

*Ambystoma opacum* – marbled salamanders 9

Family Plethodontidae – lungless salamanders

*Desmognathus auriculatus* – southern dusky salamander 10 *Eurycea cirrigera* – southern two-lined salamander 11 *Eurycea guttolineata* – three-lined salamander 12

*Eurycea quadridigitata* – dwarf salamander 13

*Plethodon variolatus* – South Carolina slimy salamander 14

*Stereochilus marginatus* - many lined salamander 15

Family Sirenidae – sirens

*Siren intermedia* – eastern lesser siren 16

**Reptilia**

**Crocodilia – crocodilians**

Family Alligatoridae – alligators and caimans

*Alligator mississippiensis* – American alligator 17

**Squamata – Suborder Sauria – lizards**

Family Polychrotidae (or Iguanidae)

*Anolis carolinensis* – green anole 18

Family Scincidae – skinks

*Eumeces fasciatus* – five lined skink 19

*Scincella lateralis* – ground skink 20

**Squamata – Suborder Ophidia – snakes**

Family Colubridae – harmless snakes

*Diadophis punctatus punctatus* – southern ring-neck snake 21

*Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata* – yellow rat snake 22

*Lampropeltus getula getula* – common kingsnake 23 *Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides* – scarlet kingsnake 24

*Nerodia erythrogaster* – red-bellied water snake 25

*Opheodrys aestivus* – keeled green snake 26

*Thamnophis sauritus* sauritus – eastern ribbon snake 27 *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis* – eastern garter snake 28

Family Viperidae – vipers

*Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix* – southern copperhead 29

*Agkistrodon piscivorus piscivorus* – eastern cottonmouth 30

*Crotalus adamantaeus* – eastern diamondback rattlesnake 31

*Crotalus horridus* – canebrake rattlesnake\* 32

**Testudines – turtles**

Family Chelydridae – snapping turtles

*Chelydra serpentina* – common snapping turtle 33

Family Emydidae

*Deirochelys reticularia* – eastern chicken turtle 34 *Terrapene carolina carolina* – eastern box turtle 35

*Trachemys scripta scripta* – yellow-bellied slider 36

Family Kinosternidae – mud and musk turtles

*Kinosternon bauri* – striped mud turtle 37

*Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum* – eastern mud turtle 38

*Sternotherus odoratus* – stinkpot or common musk turtle 39