

J.R. DIXON
Journal
1998

18 May 1998

Bryan, Texas - Boquillas xing, BBNP.

6am rising, ran to McDonald's for burritos, loaded Mary's clothing, and left town at 7:45am for Big Bend Natl. Park to meet Mike + Jenna Forstner at the Barker Research Station on the Rio Grande River, nr. the Boquillas Crossing. Drove usual route via Heame, Rockdale, Georgetown, Llano, Menard, Iraan, Ft. Stockton, then Hy 385 to Marathon, where we met Rob + Mindy Dean at their house, visited some 40min, + then drove to Barker house, arriving 7:10pm. We drove 590 miles this date, with several stops for Mary to walk. Mike + Jenna were already here, so we partially unloaded the truck; ate tuna helper for supper, + drove to Rio Grande Village to check Mike's traps (he has 7 out). Found nothing in the 3 traps in the beaver pond, we did find bullfrogs, Leopard frogs, and Gt. water snakes in the pond, and a Texas toad in the park, a dead bullbat (*Capimulpid*) at junction of Boquillas Canyon/Rio Grande Village roads. Returned to "Barker" to bleed snake + frogs; and at house we found ± 10 *H. turcicus* on walls, we collected 5 tails for muscle samples. Finally in bed by midnite!

19 May 1998

Barker Res. Sta; BBNP.

7am awake; ate banana; Mike up by 7:30; MIKE + I set traps 3/10 mi down river from house, 2 hrs to set 3; had to cut trails; set in hot springs area; ate quick cereal breakfast, + drove to Rio Grande Village where we set traps in G. gaigeae pond; beaver pond; + in river. Ran Mike's traps (?) from yesterday, caught 19 turtles; 15 *I. gaigeae*, + 4 *A. spinifera*. Replaced Mike's traps with mine, (set mine) + returned to house to take blood (1pm). Finished by 4pm; Mike + I canoed to traps below house; 1 *A. palom*, 2 *T. gaigeae*,

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19 May (cont.). Drove to Rio Grande village, Mike checked River traps, G. gairdneri pond netted 3 Kinosternon flavescens, + 1 Trachemys gairdneri; The Beaver pond netted 6 T. gairdneri, 1 K. flavescens, + 1 A. spiniferum. Mike came in with 4 T. gairdneri, + 1 A. spiniferum ♀. We rushed these back to house, measured, weighed + bled the lot. A total of 34 turtles today; Mike + Jenna packed + left at 7pm. We will catch up with them on May 27 at Officers Quarters, in Castolon, BBNP. Mary + I ate hotdog supper + will run traps + rebait tomorrow. After dark I checked building and observed 19 H. furcivorus + caught 6 for samples.

20 May

Barker House, BBNP →

up 6am; breakfast of cereal, off to Panther Junction at 8:30 am; turned in Jenna's ck for 60⁰⁰ to Susan Simmons, who then issued a key to the Officers Quarters for Castolon. Mary Kay Manning not in. Spoke with Raymond Skiles, received a copy of my Tambilla permit; then Mary bought cards + book marks. We returned to RG village to check traps + rebait. Of 12 traps, caught 5 in two traps in G. gairdneri pond. Moved three traps to bank in River; 2 in Beaver Pond to #4 spring pond because I saw T.g. there; We returned to Barker house at 11:40; sandwich lunch; I pitted the 3 T.g., + marked the two K.f. from G. gairdneri pond; meas. weighed + bled all five. Finished at 2pm. At 4pm, returned to RG village; had two T.g. in river trap + 1 A.s. ♀; two T.g. in Beaver pond (1 recp # 122938465A). I repaired 13th trap, + placed it in #4 spring pond. 3 Traps in G. gairdneri yielded two K.f., + 3 T.g.; Returned to Barker House, recorded data on all turtles, bled all; + finished by 7:30pm. I prepared geckos, + 1 N. erythrogaster from Beaver pond. 651/231 mm ♂; 4 Hemidactylus furcivorus from house.

21 May Barker house, to RG village

6:30 am; cereal breakfast, photo of small T. gaigeae from Beaver pond; showered, drove to RG village to check traps at 10 am. Nothing in Beaver, or #4 Spring (7 traps), rebaited. We saw a ♂ + ♀ Anolis carolinensis in dead mesquite tree at entrance to board walk (right side), tree in water of Beaver pond right in front of 1st trap on right side. Male anole displaying to ♀ anole; tried to catch both but failed because of depth of mud + thorns. Drove to river set of 3 traps; upstream 2 traps (1 empty), had A.s. + T.g.; lower trap had ② T.g., but one swam out while I baited, so only caught 1. G. gaigeae 3 traps contained only 3 in one trap; a re T.g., 1 unmarked ♀, + 1 marked K.f. ♂. Bought 2 Apples + 6 coles at store + returned to Barker house. To do the four turtles (3 T.g., 1 A.s.). Changed bait buckets, new cans; data taken on turtles, returned to sites at 4 pm, after driving Mary to mouth of Boquillas Canyon (1.6 mi); ran traps in #4 Spring, + Beaver Pond; zilch with new bait, Rio Grande Camp ground site only 2 A. spinifera; + G. gaigeae pond, 4 K. flavescens. No more T. gaigeae. Pulled all traps, washed + dried, and returned to Barker house to measure + bleed K.f. + A.s.. We will return them tonight + leave in morning for Presidio. Between all of us, we caught total of 62 turtles in 3 days; 36 of these are blood samples of T. gaigeae, + 2 RC; + 1 escaped trap = 39 T. gaigeae.

22 May Up 6:30, on road by 8:30; drove to Presidio, + had lunch at EL Pedro Rest, bought some food + drove on to Mesquite Ranch, 17 mi, and 11 mi Presidio, up Hwy 170 + then Ranch road thru Mesquite Ranch to Chinati Mt. Nat. Area.

22 May (cont) Met Andy at one of 4 buildings on property. We walked same at 2-4pm; and at Elev. of 4036 ft, we found Cnemidophorus dixonii fairly common, along with its presumed parents - C. septemvittatus and C. tigris: THS people began showing up; about 40 total. We were crowded into small space. Did not sleep at night; Mary & I went to bed about 11pm.

23 May & 24 May Chinati, Mt. Ranch Presidio Co., TX., Andy, David Haines, Mary & I drove to Cienega some 6mi up river (on ranch road) & found tadpoles of Rana berlandieri?; Crotalus atrox, & later that evening, Tremorphodon wilkinsoni, Thamnophis cyrtopsis, Crotalus molossus, Crotalus lepidus, Coleonyx brevis, Gastrophryne olivacea; Cophosaurus texanus, Urosaurus ornatus, Sceloporus painsetti, Sceloporus undulatus, Phrynosoma modestum (DOR); Crotaphytus collaris; Hibbitts crew up one canyon arm found Diadophis punctatus, Masticophis taeniatus, & found Salvadora hexalepis (accidentally cut in two pieces with shovel while digging it up); crews also found M. flacillum, C. inornatus, C. exsanguis, Uta stansburiana, Bufo speciosus, Eumeces tetragrammus, & Eumeces obsoletus. Mary & I in sack about 10:30pm.
PS: Did manage to find Turkey Vulture with 2 chicks in pile of rocks about mile from camp, & 2 Vauclimā in old building with beds near camp.

24 May Chinati, Mt. Ranch in Castolon, B&WP.
We had show & tell at 9am; Kathryn & Ted having trouble with electricity in their Chev.; We took off about 9:45 am & following them to Presidio; Since this was sandy, no one would help & they took off for Alpine.

24 May (cont.) Mary & I found DOR Pituophis c. affinis in red Ford. We drove on to Lajitas for lunch; then on to Study Butte for some groceries, & arrived Castolon about 2:30pm. Unloaded truck into Officers Quarters (AC/Ref) great!!! We then drove to Cottonwood Camp Ground, Santa Elena River Crossing, and 1 mi N. Cottonwood camp ground; finally put out 6 turtle traps at Cottonwood, & 4 traps 1 mi N, where road reaches River. Finished by 5:pm. Found pink masticophis flagellum swimming in river, 1 mi N. Cottonwood camp. Return to house; ate soft tacos for supper, showered; preserved, & wrote notes until 8pm. Ran turtle traps 8-9pm; the six at Cottonwood yielded 2 gar (Mexico side) + 3 Apalone (1 trap) on American side. The upstream 4 traps yielded 5 turtles in one trap (1 T. garmani + 4 Apalone) + one two Apalone in another, for 10 turtles this site, this date! Will measure & bleed in morning! Too tired tonight!

25 May Castolon, BBNP. 6:30am; Left at 8:30 to drive river road to check areas for trapping turtles. Found a nice one 3.8 mi NW of Castolon, set two traps there. Checked & repaired remaining traps (10), no turtles, but had a gar (long nose). Back at house by 12:15 pm. Checked traps at 7:00pm; contained 3 T. garmani + 2 A. spiniferum. returned to O.Q., & made DNA samples of T.g., & carapace samples of As. In sack by 10pm.

26 May Castolon, BBNP TX: 6:am, cereal breakfast; made trap run at 10:30am; had 2 T. garmani + 3 A. spiniferum. Returned to house & collected samples of carapace & blood. Ate lunch, read, & headed back to traps at 7pm.

26 May (cont.) Traps contained 2 A. spinitera + 1 T. gairdneri. Lost one trap at Cottonwood camp for 45 min; but finally found it. I had hidden it too well! At Castolon site to date, we have found 7 T. gairdneri + 16 Apalome spinitera, 8 T. gairdneri; T. gairdneri, 4♂, 2♀.

27 May Castolon, BBNP. Ran traps morning + evening, bled 5 T. gairdneri, + 4 A. spinitera. Mike, Jenna, + Steve North show up at 3pm. Took them to all 3 trap sites, + they set 11 traps. Ate late supper, + Mike, Jenna, + Steve drove roads for traps.

28 May Steve North packs + on road by 9am. The four of us head SE down west river road to Black dike, where we set 18 traps by 12:00 noon. We roasted the remainder of day until 5:15pm, when looked as if it would rain, we pulled all traps, because we were 10.8 mi. from pavement; + we had two large arroyos to cross + could not if it rained. We caught 10 Trachemys gairdneri and 8 Apalome spinitera. We immediately bled the Apalome + released them + carried the T. gairdneri to OQ. Bled the T. gairdneri before supper; + soon after, Mike + Jenna drove roads to P.J. We drove road to S.E. overlook + back. Saw one small snake, but it got off road before I could catch it. Mary + I in sack by 11pm; Mike + Jenna by midnite.

29 May Castolon, BBNP - Alpine, Tx.
Up by 7am, packed truck + on road to Alpine by 9:30am. Arrived Alpine 11:30am; bought 47⁰⁰ groc., + visited Scudley's house. He + Fern on midland for Doc. appt. We eat at outbreak with Mike + Jenna; + visit Scudley's house again; not in; Mike + Jenna take off for Lajitas, + we

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29 May (cont) do not expect to see them again until 1 August.
Mary + I sit in Fern + Jim's yard until 4 pm; + wait
for them to return from Midland. Mike + Jenna
found P. c. affinis dor, on mile marker 12 from
Castolon, + we found small DOR C. strus, mi SSW
of Study Butte on 118. We have caught ± 94 Trachemys
gaigeae since the trip started; + a total of 114 turtles
in all. Preserved herps on tail gate waiting for sadday,
now 4 pm; been in Alpine for 4.5 hrs. We will leave
in few minutes for Sanderson. In Sanderson by 6: pm; stay in
Desert Aire Motel; eat at Country Kitchen, + in bed by 10 pm.

30 May

Sanderson - Lost Maples St. Park

Leave Sanderson ± 9:30 am; DOR M. f. testaceus ♀ SVL 670, Tail
263 mm; 4.5 mi SE Sanderson (muscle tissue); drive on to hybrid
zone 10.8-12.2 mi SE Sanderson; collect C. inornatus, extremely
dry; observe C. septemvittatus? in C. gularis site at camp
site on hill; perhaps indication that ranges shift in
dry conditions? Drive on to Del Rio, then to Bracketville,
San Felipe Sps "Full of people"; (Sat.); take 334 by to
Camp Wood; then 337 by to its junction with 187 by, + 4 mi
to Lost Maples St. Park; arriving 4:50 pm. Park not ready
for us; gave us the last camp site (7); + will let Roy
Hideman (Supt) handle it tomorrow (Sun), Roy is on
duty from 12-8 pm. Unloaded truck + walked to Rio Sabinal,
just a trickle; woman (Martha + John), fell at low water rap,
hurt head, elbow, back + ribs; we took them to their camp
Jon Fisher (53 ac) place just outside entrance to park. Talked
some, + then returned to #7, Fixed supper; did creek walk,
only Acris calling. Saw fish + crayfish in stream. Bathed
+ in sack by 10:30 pm.

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31 May 1998 Lost Maples St. Park

Up at 7:00 am; fixed breakfast + coffee; tagged herps + Tubes; observed brown-headed cowbirds, purple Finch, scrub jay, inca doves, ^{Am Cordiner, Fossquinn,} Titmouse, in host camp. Mary saw hummers. Haven't decided what to do until John Malone arrives. We checked out the paved roads (not much) + then found C. gularis ♀ in road repair (disturbed) area. Drove back to camp, bled lizard, and waited for John. John + Roy Heideman show up at 12:30 pm. We talk about sites, + then check gear bought by Geo. Keegly. Everything but plastic pails or buckets. Found places for two arrays, John took off for C.S. to bring back #10 cans, at 2 pm. I don't know if he will make it back, he is very tired. Before he left, Roy Heideman, John + I (Roy) caught another ♀ C. gularis in Maintenance shed. Mary + I loaded up the mining bar, silt fence, staples, sledge (8 lb), stakes, funnel traps; + built a Y array near headquarters. Took up about 3 1/2 hrs. Really hot!! We came back + showered; I fixed tacos for supper; + then we set up two funnels below shelf rock in flowing water of Sabinil river. Found tadpoles at 1st crossing of Sabinil at Park entrance. Collected some for John. In sack by 10 pm.

1 June Lost Maples St. Park

6:15 awake, fixed coffee + wrote notes. Cereal breakfast, John did not arrive until 8: am; too sleepy to drive back in. 8:45 am, John + I finished Array 1, and by 10 am, were installing array 2 in open grass meadow seeded with indian grass. Finished that one by 12:56 pm. John had to go to Kerrville for groceries, left at 1:30; Mary + I moved

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1 June (cont.) Camp from 7 to #4; more shade! Roy Hideman came by 3 times to take us (John too) to view possible new sites. John finally returns 4:40pm; Roy, John, Mary + I go to possible sites 3, 4, 5, + 6. After working the sites, we decided on a riparian site below Maintenance building.

2 June 1998 Lost Maples St. Park

Up at 6:30; after waiting 1 hr for John to get his act together, we drive with Roy, to trail head of West trail + East trail, and put in Y array under Maple forest on slope of Wet Can Creek. Finished in 3 hrs. Had Lunch with John + then walked east trail to its uphill run nr. Primitive Camp site A., + we walked up Hale Hollow Canyon (no trail) until till we reached 3 arroyo entrances close to each other, + then returned to camp + 5 mi walk. We saw lots of tadpoles of R. berlandieri + adult Acris up the creek in most pools. Found a rock that looks like a stone toad; 2 washouts in solid bedrock we dubbed "two-Tubs"; found one small spring, + very little water flow in any of the area. Some travertine formations with Maidenhair fern. Saw minnows that looked like Redhorse minnows, + D. onda. Returned at 5:45pm; out about 4 hours. Ate supper with Karen + Roy Hideman, along with Camp hosts Veda + Jim Dale, + John Malone. In sack by 9:30pm, really tired. We saw C. texanus, U. ornatus, E. brevilineatus, S. lateralis, R. berlandieri + Acris crepitans on walk.

3 June Lost Maples State Park

Up at 6:30am; cool morning, cloudy, Got John M. up at 7:30; we set up Y Array #4 in riparian site just below Maintenance Bldg., 2 hours; lots of sweat., Finished at 11am; drove to Y Array #1, + deepened can hole pits to

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3 June (cont.) double the depth of can trap. This took $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs; lots of rock! We ate Lunch before we went, so it was 1:30pm when we quit. John M. ran Arrays at 11:30 am, nothing in any of them. John ran to store for bread, but no bread, not until 5pm. We designed some Pitfall arrays in shape of \cdot \cdot \cdot , also some that had 12 cans per array. \cdot \cdot \cdot , we settled on \cdot \cdot \cdot . Walked between 3:15-3:35 pm, looking for S. olivaceus, but found zip. Checked the four arrays at 6:30pm; S. lateralis in central bucket of Maples Array. Also saw one in Leaf litter. Found ♀ S. olivaceus on rock, then jumped to Maple tree where I stunned it with rubber band. Back to camp where I fixed spaghetti (John's spaghetti + sauce) mixed veggies, Light Fruit cocktail, + coffee. Said goodbye to John about 8:45pm. Mary called Arley + Sally; he is off to Georgia in morning, so we are headed home tomorrow. Showered, + ready for sack at 10pm. Drew blood on S. olivaceus.

4 June Left Maples State Park - Bryan/College Station
Up at 6:30 am; cereal breakfast, began loading truck. Finished by 8:15 am; stopped by Park office + said goodbye to Ray + workers. Bought Tennant's 2nd Edition (1988) at Park Office. We drove to Hy 337, to Hy 16, to Hy 46 to I-35, to Hy 21 to Hy 47 and home by 2pm. Good trip. Did not go to office to check mail until 8pm. Too much to do and look at with mail + debits at home. Did Food fortresses + turtles; Bought some groc., + ate at home. In sack by 10pm.

JRD #	PIT #	species	DATE 1998	place	PL	PW	CL	wt.	
33784	122567547A	Trga [♂]	5/20	G. gaigeae pond	106	72	119	232	Blood
33785	122562772A	Trga [♂]	"	"	88	65	95	128	"
33786	122531750A	Trga [♀]	"	"	90	64	99	139	"
33787	— notch 1	kifl [♂]	"	"	98	70	115	320	"
33788	— notch 2	kifl [♀]	"	"	92	62	95	190	"
33789	— notch 3	kifl [♂]	"	"	83	58	85	138	"
33790	— notch 4	kifl [♀]	"	"	88	60	90	172	"
33791	122927251A	Trga [♀]	"	"	113	102	169	1000+	"
33792	122567737A	Trga [♀]	"	"	179	116	190	1000+	"
33793	122822314A	Trga [♂]	"	"	118	72	125	278	"
33794	122517672A	Trga [♀]	"	Camp Ground RG village	123	85	132	300+	"
33795	122514655A	Trga [♀]	"	"	134	82	145	300+	"
33796	122517132A	Trga ^{juv} ♂	"	Beaver pond	78	52	86	95	+RC Tg
33797	notch 1	Apsp [♀]	" (5)	Camp Ground RG village	136	166	194	300+	"
33798	122468695A	Trga [♂]	5/21	"	96	65	107	153	"
33799	122927562A	Trga [♀]	"	"	108	75	115	224	"
33800	122564583A	Trga [♀]	"	gaigeae pond	151	115	160	300+	IRCTg IRCLCF
33801	notch #2	Apsp [♂]	"	RG village	110	89	160	300+	Blood
33802	—	Apsp [♀]	"	"	188	142	262	1000+	"
33803	—	Apsp [♀]	"	"	170	130	230	1000+	"
33804	—	kifl [♂]	"	gaigeae pond	105	77	121	300+	"
33805	—	kifl [♂]	"	"	110	75	122	300+	"
33806	—	kifl [♂]	"	"	102	70	118	300+	"
33807	—	kifl [♀]	"	"	72	53	78	112	"
* 33857	122461565A	Trga [♀]	5/24	Rio G. Riv) 1/2 mi NW Carlton	133	87	142	300+	Blood
33848	~	Apsp [♂]	"	"	180	140	253	1000+	Camp ground
33849	~	" [♂]	"	"	167	131	226	1000+	"
33850	~	" [♂]	"	"	180	142	255	"	"
33851	~	" [♀]	"	"	118	72	116	300+	"

pieces of
comparisons

JRD #	Pt #	species	date	place	PL	PW	CL	wt.
33852	~	car Apsp ♂	5/24	RGR, 1.8 mi NW Castalon	190	160	262	1000+
33853	~	Apsp ♂	"	"	102	82	140	242
33854	~	Apsp ♀	"	cottonwood Ccampground	135	100	199	300+
33855	~	Apsp ♂	"	"	100	81	136	236
33856	~	Apsp ♂	"	"	96	83	139	248
33858	122536611 A	Trga ♀	5/25	" chihuahua side	154	105	165	300+
33859	122569383 A	Trga ♂	"	"	120	78	145	300+
33860	122467512 A	Trga ♀	"	90° Bend, 3.4 mi NW Castalon	170	114	187	300+
33861	~	Apsp ♀	"	"	175	142	245	1000+
33862	~	Apsp ♀	"	RGR, 1.8 mi NW Castalon	128	100	180	300+
33863	122934692 A	Trga ♂	5/26	90° Bend, 3.4 mi NW Castalon	94	61	107	156
33864	~	Apsp ♂	"	"	105	85	147	295
33865	122779570 A	Trga ♂	"	cottonwood C.G., 0.9 mi NW Castalon	125	77	145	300+
33866	~	Apsp ♀	"	"	165	128	230	1000+
33867	~	Apsp ♂	"	"	94	78	116	234
33868	~	car Apsp ♀	"	"	176	140		1000+
33869	~	car Apsp ♀	"	RGR, 1.8 mi NW Castalon	178	159	268	1000+
33870	122471564 A	Bl Trga ♂	"	"	95	65	108	184
33871	~	Apssp ♀	5/27	"	95	68	130	160
33872	122549146 A	Trga ♂	"	"	133	85	153	470
33873	122519560 A	Trga ♀ juv	"	"	106	70	115	225
33874	122929294 A	Trga ♀	"	cottonwood C.G., 0.9 mi	171	106	175	950
33875	~	Apssp ♀	"	"	139	102	189	280
33876	~ MF 2048	Apssp ♀	"	90° Bend, 3.4 mi N. Castalon	128	96	179	410
33877	~ MF 2049	Apssp ♀	"	"	155	118	210	700
33878	122934365 A MF 2050	Trga ♀	"	"	155	97	166	575
33879	122818594 A MF 2051	Trga ♂	"	"	101	70	111	185
33880	~ MF 2054	Apssp ♀	5/28	10.8 mi SE Castalon, black bike	195	157	272	1750
33881	~ MF 2055	Apssp ♂	"	"	115	102	163	412
33882	~ MF 2056	Apssp ♀	"	"	170	126	224	985

PIT #	spec.	date	Loc	PL	PW	CL	wt.
~	MF 2057	5/28	10 mi SE Caston Black Dicks	201	158	267	1670
✓	2058	"	"	177	139	241	1200
✓	2059	"	"	164	116	250	940
✓	2060	"	"	122	92	177	412
✓	2061	"	"	62	45	86	60
122564630A	Trga ♀	"	" MF 2062	180	109	200	1100
122945337A	Trga ♀	"	" 2063	172	110	188	925
122529753A	Trga ♀	"	" 2064	178	118	197	1090
122465311A	Trga ♀	"	" 2065	166	112	174	700
122529525A	Trga ♀	"	" 2066	141	90	156	450
122809245A	Trga ♀	"	" 2067	125	82	132	315
122933145A	Trga ♀	"	" 2068	114	77	120	245
122822191A	Trga ♀	"	" 2069	106	72	116	220
122529463A	Trga ♂	"	" 2070	88	62	97	130
122566577A	Trga ♂	"	" 2071	104	70	121	210
TCWC 80629	Trsc ♂	5/26	8 mi up River from Johns Marina, Dryden	165	105	200	850
80630	" ♂	"	Crossing 2040	164	103	180	700
80631	" ♂	"	↓ 2041	175	115	190	1100