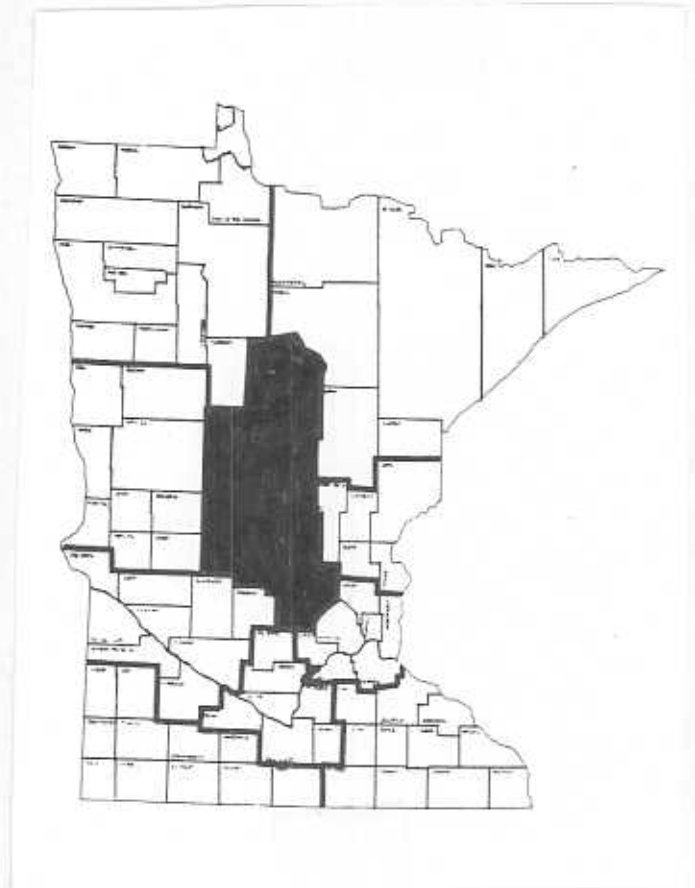


**Guide to the Reptiles
and Amphibians of
Central Minnesota-
Region 3W**



**Minnesota
Department of
Natural
Resources**

Guide to the Herpetofauna of Central Minnesota

Region 3 - West

This preliminary guide has been prepared as a reference to the occurrence and distribution of reptiles and amphibians of Region 3 - West in Central Minnesota. Taxonomy and identification are based on "A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians" by Roger Conant (Second Edition 1975). Figure 1 is a map of the region.

Counties Included: Benton, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wadena and Wright.

SPECIES LISTTurtles

Common snapping turtle
Map turtle
Western painted turtle
*Blanding's turtle
Western spiny softshell
Smooth softshell

Lizards

Northern prairie skink

Snakes

Red-bellied snake
Texas brown (Dekay's) snake
Northern water snake
Western plains garter snake
Red-sided garter snake } s.s.
Eastern garter snake }
Eastern hognose snake
*Western smooth green snake } s.s.
*Eastern smooth green snake }
Bullsnake

s.s. - single species
(?) - hypothetical species - reports needed
* - special interest species - reports needed

Salamanders

Blue-spotted salamander
Eastern tiger salamander
Mudpuppy (?)
*Central (Common) newt (?)
*Red-backed salamander (?)

Toads

American toad

Frogs

Northern spring peeper
Common (gray) treefrog
Boreal chorus frog } s.s.
Western chorus frog }
Mink frog
Northern leopard frog
Green frog
Wood frog

Summary

A total of 24 species are found in Region 3 - West. The mudpuppy, central newt, and red-backed salamander are probably present but have not yet been recorded. The common garter snake, smooth green snake and chorus frog are represented by two subspecies.

Four species are of special interest: the Blanding's turtle, which is unofficially considered threatened by the state, the smooth green snake, red-backed salamander, and central newt. Any sightings of these species should be recorded and sent to the nongame supervisor.

County records for this region are given on the following pages. If you encounter any new county records, the specimen should be captured and either photographed from several angles or preserved in isopropyl alcohol. The best identification record for frogs and toads is a recording of the call. Record the collector's name and address, date, county, township, range, section number (or distance and direction from the nearest town), and the habitat in which the animal was found. The nongame supervisor should be contacted concerning disposition of specimens.

Unless otherwise specified, all county records on the following pages are derived from Reptiles and Amphibians of Minnesota by Walter J. Breckenridge.

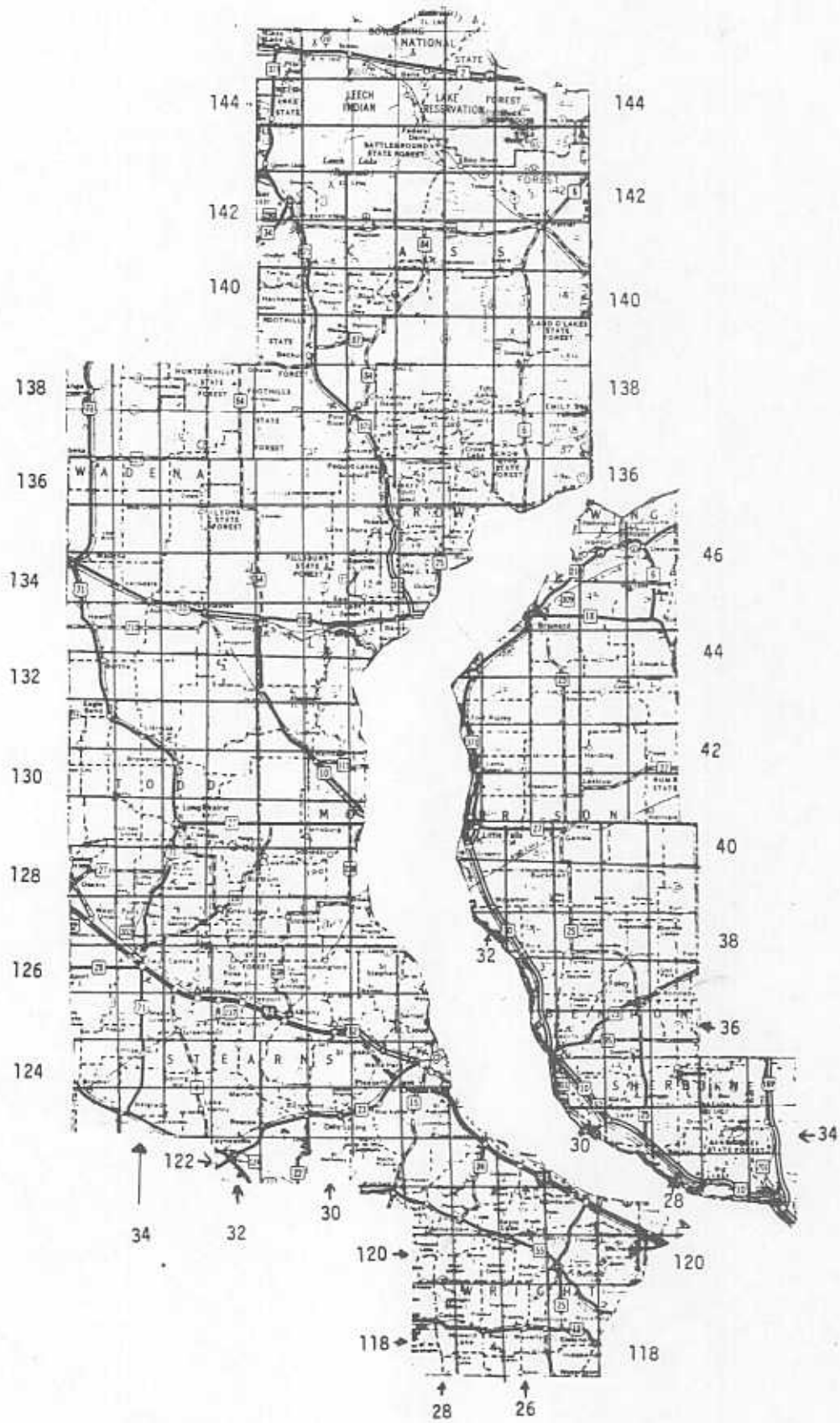


Figure 1. Map of Region 3-West. Township numbers are on right and left margins. Range numbers are on the bottom margin.

Reptiles and Amphibians of Minnesota - Region 3 West

Turtles

Common Snapping Turtle

Map Turtle

Western Painted Turtle

Blanding's Turtle

Western Spiny Softshell

Smooth Softshell

Lizards

Northern Prairie Skink

Snakes

Red-bellied Snake

Texas Brown Snake

Northern Water Snake

Western Plains Garter Snake

Red-sided Garter Snake }
Eastern Garter Snake } s.s.

Eastern Hognose Snake

Western Smooth Green Snake }
Eastern Smooth Green Snake } s.s.

Bullsnake

Salamanders

Mudpuppy (?)

Central Newt (?)

Blue-spotted Salamander

Eastern Tiger Salamander

	Wadena	Cass	Crow Wing	Todd	Morrison	Benton	Stearns	Wright	Sherburne
Common Snapping Turtle		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Map Turtle							X	X	
Western Painted Turtle		X	DNR X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blanding's Turtle	X	X	X		X	X			X
Western Spiny Softshell			X			X	X	DNR X	X
Smooth Softshell								X-DNR	X-DNR
Northern Prairie Skink	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Red-bellied Snake		X	X		X			X	X
Texas Brown Snake							X	X	X
Northern Water Snake									X
Western Plains Garter Snake		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-sided Garter Snake } Eastern Garter Snake } s.s.			X			X	X		X
Eastern Hognose Snake	X	X	X	X			X	X	
Western Smooth Green Snake } Eastern Smooth Green Snake } s.s.			X		X				X
Bullsnake					X	X			X
Mudpuppy (?)									
Central Newt (?)									
Blue-spotted Salamander			X		X				X
Eastern Tiger Salamander		X	X		X	X	X	X	X

Salamanders - Continued

Red-backed Salamander (?)

Toads

American Toad

Frogs

Northern spring peeper

Gray treefrog

Boreal chorus frog }
Western chorus frog } s.s.

Mink frog

Northern leopard frog

Green frog

Wood frog

	Wadena	Cass	Crow Wing	Todd	Morrison	Benton	Stearns	Wright	Sherburne
Red-backed Salamander (?)									
American Toad		X	X						X
Northern spring peeper		X	X						
Gray treefrog		X	X				X	DNR X	X
Boreal chorus frog	X	X	X				X		X
Western chorus frog	X	X	X				X		X
Mink frog		?	X						
Northern leopard frog		X	X	X		X	X		X
Green frog		X	X				X		X
Wood frog	X	X	X		X				X