

**Cottonmouth, *Agkistrodon piscivorus*, Records from
the Blue River and Potato Run in Harrison County, Indiana
(Ohio River Drainage, USA)**

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Introduction

In May 1983, the first Indiana population of cottonmouth, *Agkistrodon piscivorus*, was located in a swampy area known as Buffalo Bottom, northeast of Jasper in Dubois County, Indiana (2). We report two additional cottonmouth records which represent an easternmost range extension within the Ohio River drainage for the western subspecies, *A. p. leucostoma*.

Localities

One adult specimen was taken by B.J. Forsyth and G. Wilson on April 27, 1968 from the lower Blue River near the confluence with the Ohio River at the entrance to Stygeon River Cave in Harrison County (Lat. 38°10'46", Long. 86°18'37"). In April 1970, a subadult was taken by Forsyth from Potato Run which enters the Ohio River about two miles upstream from the mouth of the Blue River in Harrison County (Lat. 38°10'15", Long. 86°18'21"). We have both specimens in our collections at Indiana University Southeast. The locations of these localities and localities for other recently verified records in Indiana and Kentucky are given in Figure 1.

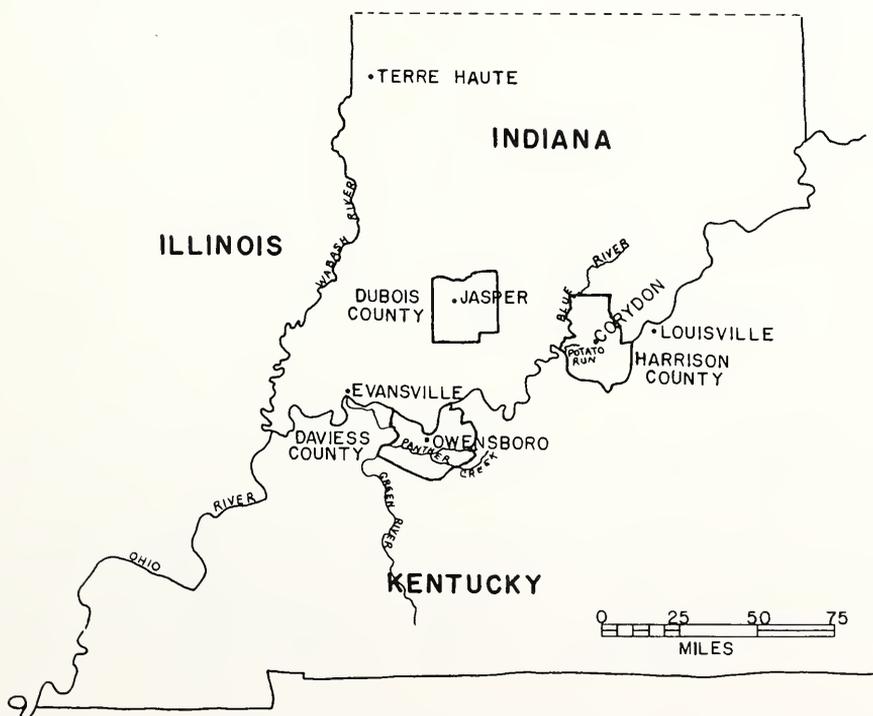


FIGURE 1. Map of Kentucky and Indiana Indicating Verified Cottonmouth Records in Dubois and Harrison Counties in Indiana, and in Daviess County in Kentucky.

Discussion

Both specimens probably were taken immediately following hibernation in near-by limestone caves and crevices. Later in the year, the western subspecies is essentially nocturnal which may account for our failure to locate additional individuals. Our first inclination was that perhaps they were transported up the Ohio River on barges (which accounts for the delay in reporting the records). Alternatively, the specimens could represent a native relict population similar to the one in Dubois County which is only about 35 miles northwest of the Harrison County records (Figure 1). In addition, a Kentucky population, recently verified by MacGregor (1) in August 1984 near Owensboro in Daviess County, Kentucky in the Panther Creek portion of the Green River drainage, is situated about 50 miles southwest of our localities (Figure 1).

Acknowledgments

We acknowledge Dr. Sherman A. Minton of the Indiana University School of Medicine who alerted us regarding the significance of these findings. Mr. Michael J. Lodato verified the identifications.

Literature Cited

1. MACGREGOR, J. 1984. Personal communication from Kentucky's Non-Game Biologist.
2. MINTON, S.A., LIST, J.C., AND M.J. LODATO. 1982. Recent records and status of amphibians and reptiles in Indiana. Note added in proof. Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci. 92:489-498.