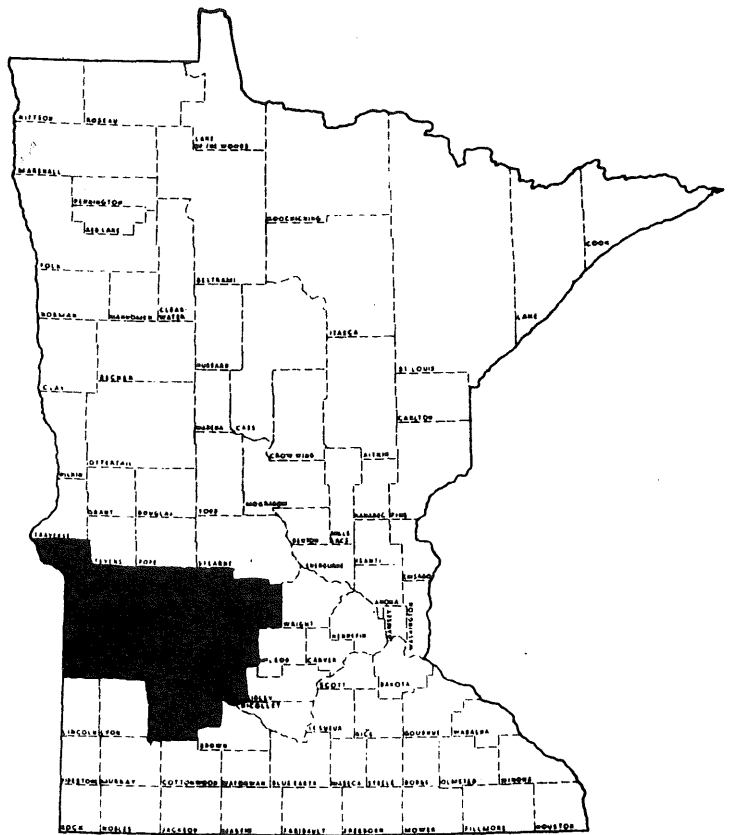
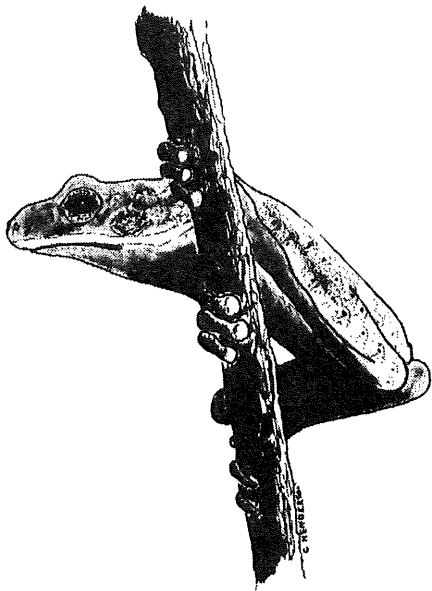


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Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Lower West Central Minnesota- Region 4W



**Minnesota
Department of
Natural
Resources**

Guide to the Herpetofauna of Southwest Minnesota

Region 4 - West

This preliminary guide has been prepared as a reference to the occurrence and distribution of reptiles and amphibians of Region 4 - West in Southwest 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 this region.

Counties Included: Big Stone, Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Meeker, Redwood, Renville, Swift, and Yellow Medicine.

SPECIES LIST

Turtles

Common snapping turtle
Western painted turtle
Western spiny softshell

Lizards

Northern prairie skink
*Five-lined (blue-tailed) skink

Snakes

Red-bellied snake
Texas brown (DeKay's) snake
Western plains garter snake
Red-sided garter snake } s.s.
Eastern garter snake }
Plains western hognose snake
Bullsnake
Western fox snake
Eastern milk snake
*Western smooth green snake

Salamanders

Mudpuppy
*Gray tiger salamander } s.s.
Eastern tiger salamander }
*Red-backed salamander
Blue-spotted salamander (?)

Toads

*Canadian (Dakota) toad
American toad
*Great plains toad

Frogs

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

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

Summary

A total of 23 species have been recorded in Region 4 - West. Two subspecific types exist for three of these -- the eastern garter snake, chorus frog, and tiger salamander. The blue-spotted salamander, green frog, and mink frog may be found in northern Kandiyohi County.

Species of special interest in this region include the five-lined skink. It is unofficially considered threatened by the state and is found only in Redwood and Yellow Medicine Counties. Other species include the western smooth green

snake (if present), gray tiger salamander, red-backed salamander, Canadian toad, Great plains toad, and western smooth green snake. Any sightings of these species should be documented 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. Record the collector's name and address, date, county, township, range, section number (or distance and direction from 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.

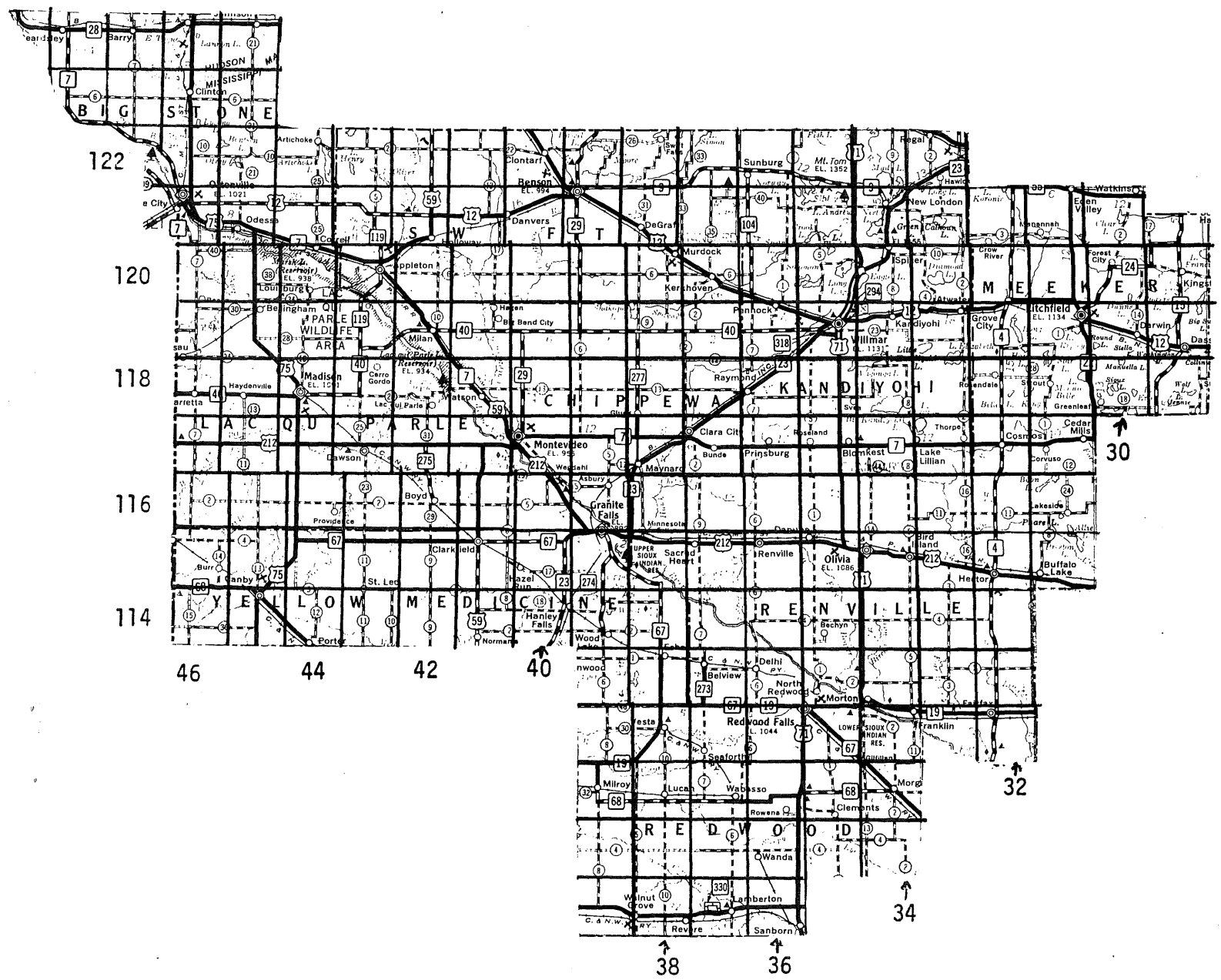


Figure 1. Map of Region 4-West. Township numbers are in the left margin and range numbers are on the bottom margin.

Reptiles and Amphibians of Minnesota - Region 4 West

	Redwood	Renville	Kandiyohi	Lac qui Parle	Yellow Medicine	Chippewa	Swift	Big Stone	Meeker
<u>Turtles</u>									
Common Snapping Turtle			X		X		X	X	
Western Painted Turtle		X	X		X	DNR X		X	
Western Spiny Softshell		DNR X	DNR X	DNR X	X	DNR X			X
<u>Lizards</u>									
Northern Prairie Skink	X	X	X	X		X		X	
Five-lined Skink	X				X				
<u>Snakes</u>									
Red-bellied Snake						DNR X		X	
Texas Brown Snake			X						
Western Plains Garter Snake			X		X			X	X
Red-sided Garter Snake)	X	X			X	X			X
Eastern Garter Snake)			X						
Plains Western Hognose Snake			DNR X				X	X	
Western Smooth Green Snake (?)			DNR X						
Bullsnake		X							
Western fox snake					X	X			
Eastern milk snake	X	DNR X							
<u>Salamanders</u>									
Mudpuppy								X	
Gray Tiger Salamander)				X			X		
Eastern Tiger Salamander)						X			X
Red-backed Salamander						X			
Blue-spotted Salamander (?)			?						

Toads

- Canadian Toad
- American Toad
- Great Plains Toad

Frogs

- Gray Treefrog
- Boreal chorus frog } s.s.
- Western chorus frog }
- Northern leopard frog
- Wood frog
- Green frog (?)
- Mink frog (?)

	Redwood	Renville	Kandiyohi	Lac qui Parle	Yellow Medicine	Chippewa	Swift	Big Stone	Meeker
Canadian Toad								X	
American Toad			X						
Great Plains Toad		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Gray Treefrog			X						
Boreal chorus frog			X	X	X	X			X
Western chorus frog			X	X	X	X			X
Northern leopard frog	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wood frog							X		
Green frog (?)			?						
Mink frog (?)			?						