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Amphibian and Reptile Survey of Calamus Lake Nature Preserve, Macon County,
Illinois

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Final Report
29 June 2002

Successful reproduction was documented for *B. fowleri*, *R. sphenoccephala*, and *A. texanum* (newly metamorphosed young were found for these species).

Hoop Traps

The thirty trap-nights of turtle trapping yielded three turtle species:

<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	painted turtle*	n=1
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	snapping turtle*	n=1
<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	slider	n=1

Minnow Traps

72 trap-nights yielded no amphibians or reptiles.

Discussion

The list above includes common and abundant species of the region. Noticeably absent from this list are a few common species such as the garter snakes (*Thamnophis sirtalis* and *T. radix*), the brown snake (*Storeria dekayi*), and the racer (*Coluber constrictor*). The relatively low species richness of this site is probably a result of the isolation of the lake from the Sangamon River by the levee and row crop agriculture, the relative lack of forest buffer zone around the lake, and the overall agricultural setting.

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Introduction

Calamus Lake Nature Preserve consists of 18 acres of high quality pond communities, 71 acres of medium quality, wet floodplain forest, and 31 acres of recently reforested fields in bottomland soils. The presettlement land surveys indicate that this site was a backwater slough of the Sangamon River with relatively deep open water and distinct edges. It is the largest INAI-recognized, high quality pond community in the Grand Prairie Natural Division. However, amphibian or reptile surveys have never been completed on the site. The surveys are needed to determine species composition and the presence of rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Materials & Methods

The site was visited on 5 September, 6 September, 27 September, 2001, 16 May, 23 May, 26 May, 28 May, 30 May, 3 June, 7 June, 10 June, 12 June, 14 June, 17 June, 19 June, 21 June and 23 June, 2002. Visual Encounter Surveys were employed during each visit. In addition baited hoop traps were employed in the main pond in the Fall of 2001 and Spring of 2002 and unbaited minnow traps were employed in the east portion of the pond in Spring of 2002.

Results

VES

Approximately 45 man-hours of effort were expended on VES over the 17 days listed above. Habitats searched included shoreline of main lake, forested margins of main lake, old field on north side of lake near the parking lot, ephemeral pools on north side of main lake, and water-filled ruts in road. Visual Encounter Surveys yielded 8 amphibian species and two reptile species:

<i>Acris crepitans</i>	cricket frog*
<i>Pseudacris triseriata</i>	western chorus frog*
<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	Cope's gray treefrog*
<i>Bufo fowleri</i>	Fowler's toad*
<i>Rana blairi</i>	plains leopard frog*
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	bullfrog*
<i>Rana sphenoccephala</i>	southern leopard frog*
<i>Ambystoma texanum</i>	smallmouth salamander*
<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>	northern water snake
<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	painted turtle*

*documented by a voucher specimen in the INHS Amphibian and Reptile Collection

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