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BRIEF NOTE

AN UNUSUALLY LARGE BROOD OF NORTHERN COOPERHEADS
(*AGKISTRODON CONTORTRIX* MOKESON) FROM OHIO¹

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Brood sizes from 1 to 17 have been reported for the Northern Copperhead (Gloyd 1933; Smith 1940; Wright and Wright 1957). McDuffie (1960) studied 21 captive-born broods from Adams and Scioto counties, Ohio and found the average number of young was 5.3 per brood (range 3 to 9).

In July, 1969 a northern copperhead, 99 cm total length, was captured near State Route 52 and Turkey Creek, Scioto Co., Ohio. On 25 August a brood was produced by this female which consisted of 21 individuals. One of the young was incompletely developed and dead when found. Two others were active but later died in the prenatal membranes. The remaining eighteen were in excellent condition and were subsequently released. Considering the number of fully formed young, this brood of 20 is a record number of young for an Ohio specimen and for the subspecies.

Twenty-six other captive Ohio females kept by me produced broods of 4 to 9 young (average 5.42). By combining the above, 47 captive-born broods from Ohio varied from 3 to 9 young per brood (average 5.4). The brood of 20 was considered to be highly unusual, and was not included in the brood size calculations.

LITERATURE CITED

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