

Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (MWPARC) Student Travel Grant Report 2024

Awardee: Kayla Coggins

Professional association: Louisiana State University

In one or two paragraphs, describe the work you participated in that was facilitated by this award.

During the summer of 2024 I was able to continue my research with Dr. Julie Ray on snake ecology. This year we focused on a number of field sites primarily located in Sawyer County to collect ecological data on Eastern Gartersnake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*), Redbelly Snakes (*Storeria occipitomaculata*) and Foxsnakes (*Pantherophis vulpinus*).



During the summer we had over 220 captures of gartersnakes, 20 redbellies and 18 foxsnakes! This was a good year for catching especially gartersnakes! The number of redbellies was higher this year than last summer, likely because of the early rains that provided moisture throughout the year, especially under logs and other cover. The foxsnake numbers were consistent with 2023.

How has this work aided you in achieving your career goals?

This opportunity continues to strengthen my thought that I would like to continue in research and probably focusing in herpetology. I realize how understudied these animals are and I would like to help to make a difference in their conservation.

Image description: An Eastern Foxsnake resting in the grass.