

PLENTY OF "FRONTIER" TO VIRGINIAN HERPETOLOGY :OT

by William L. Witt, Co-Founder, VHS

With the success this past summer of finding the rare Crowned Snake (Tantilla coronata) at two widely separated localities we may feel that the last long-standing frontier of Virginian herpetology has been reached and conquered. If you feel that there are no more reasons to beat the brush then you have a pleasant surprise coming.

There are seven species of salamanders known from but a single locality. One of these species is restricted to a series of caves. From a single locality, there is one species of frog; three turtles; one lizard and three snakes. When an animal is known from only one locality, there is little that can be said, obviously, about the true "range" of the species throughout the state.

There are four salamanders, two frogs and one lizard known from but two localities.

From three localities: three salamanders; two frogs; four turtles; and, two snakes. These records (from but two or three localities) can hardly be said to establish a "range."

From four localities: one salamander; two frogs; two turtles; and one snake. (It is in this latter -- slightly more fortunate -- category that we now place Tantilla.) When the recorded localities for one species are widely separated as to north, east, south and west in the state, some idea of probable in-state range can be estimated.

One species of frog and one snake are reported from five localities. All considered, about 30 percent -- some forty species -- are known from five or fewer localities! (Lists on inside page.)

* * * * *

THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK MEETING -- NOVEMBER 25, @ 3 PM

This is your personal invitation to a special meeting of the Virginia Herpetological Society on Saturday, November 25, 1961 at three o'clock in the afternoon (eastern standard time). The place: The National Zoological Park (N.Z.P.) reptile house, Washington, D.C.

Our hosts are Dr. Theodore H. Reed, Director of the National Zoo, J. Lear Grimmer, Associate Director, N.Z.P., and the senior keeper of the Reptile House, M. Jack DePrato. The reptile house staff will be our behind-the-scenes guides during the afternoon.

MEETING PLACE: Sidewalk in front of the Reptile House, National Zoo (in front of the giant python's cage if day is wet.)

Besides the in front and behind-the-scenes tour, a program of films and slides is being planned with unique special features this year.

VHS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE URGED TO ATTEND THIS ANNUAL N.Z.P. MEETING!

The VHS BULLETIN is a newsletter appearing every other month

"PLENTY OF 'FRONTIER' TO VA. HERPETOLOGY" by W.L. Witt (continued):

One Record:

- Black Mountain Dusky Salamander (Desmognathus fuscus welteri) @ altitude restricted form
- @ Blue Ridge Two-lined Salamander (Eurycea bislineata wilderae) * endemic (restricted to specific area)
- Kentucky Spring (Gyrinophilus p. duryi)
- @ Northern Shovel-nosed (Leurognathus m. marmorata)
- Mudpuppy (Necturus maculosus maculosus)
- Thunder Ridge Sal. (Plethodon hubrichti)
- * Roanoke Sal. (Plethodon wehrlei dixi)
- Barking Treefrog (Hyla gratiosa)
- Flor. Cooter (Pseudemys f. floridana)
- Yellow-bellied Turtle (Pseudemys s. scripta)
- Stripe-necked Musk Turtle (Sternotherus minor peltifer)
- Scarlet Kingsnake (Lampropeltis d. doliata)
- Glossy Water Snake (Matrix rigida)
- Carolina Pigmy Rattlesnake (Sistrurus miliarius)
- Eastern Glass Lizard (Ophisaurus ventralis)

Two Records:

- * Flat-headed Salamander (Desmognathus planiceps)
- @ Pigmy Salamander (Desmognathus wrighti)
- @ Weller's Salamander (Plethodon welleri)
- Oak Toad (Bufo quercicus)
- Carpenter Frog (Rana virgatipes)
- Northern Coal Skink (Eumeces a. anthracinus)
- Hellbender (Cryptobranchus alleganiensis)

Three Records:

- Green Salamander (Aneides aeneus)
- Dwarf Waterdog (Necturus punctatus)
- Greater Siren (Siren lacertina)
- Northern Green Treefrog (Hyla cinerea evittata)
- Mountain Chorus Frog (Pseudacris brachyphona)
- Map Turtle (Graptemys geographica)
- Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin (Malaclemys t. terrapin)
- Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle (Trionyx spinifer spinifer)
- Coastal Plain Milk Snake (Lampropeltis d. temporalis)
- Northern Pine Snake (Pituophis m. melanoleucas)

Four Records:

- Jefferson Salamander (Ambystoma jeffersonianum)
- Northern Cricket Frog (Acris crepitans crepitans)
- Little Grass Frog (Hyla ocularis)
- Wood Turtle (Clemmys insculpta)
- River Cooter (Pseudemys f. concinna)
- Crowned Snake (Tantilla coronata)

TO: BIOLOGY INSTRUCTORS OF VIRGINIA TO VHS
SCIENCE INSTRUCTORS

DO YOU HAVE STUDENTS WITH AN INTEREST IN HERPETOLOGY?
THEY MAY ENJOY KNOWING ABOUT THE
VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ROUTE SLIP:

(Circulate to:)

- Biology Club
- Science Club
- Guidance Counselor
- Faculty members---
(by name or dep't)

INSTRUCTORS, GUIDANCE COUNSELORS:

Do you have exceptional students who may be recommended for membership in the VHS? Here is an outlet for science or biology interest and enthusiasm which you may want to consider.

SCIENCE FAIR exhibitors with a project in herpetology are offered a year's free subscription to the Virginia Herpetological Society Bulletin.

SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT winners with an exhibit on herpetology are awarded a year's paid membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society.

BIOLOGY CLUB

SCIENCE CLUB

If your school has a Biology Club or Science Club its members may wish to participate in the program of the Virginia Herpetological Society, or invite a speaker to address a meeting.

SAMPLE BULLETIN (attached)

If you wish to remain on the VHS mailing list fill out stub below, detach and mail to: VHS, 4706 Tallahassee Avenue, Rockville, Md.

.....

_____ Interested _____ Dr. Mr. Mrs. Miss (check)
(name) _____