

Dr. J.L. Chamberlain, associate professor of biology at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, President of VHS, was quoted in the Virginia press on the launching of the VHS survey of the state's amphibians and reptiles.

He said the survey will allow all collectors a chance to make worthwhile contributions to biological knowledge.

Newspapers in the Blue Ridge area and in the Hampton Roads area carried the announcement and quoted VHS Bulletin No. 42 on the purpose of the Society. The EVENING STAR, a Washington, D.C. paper serving a large number of the people living in the northeastern counties, gave a full column to the VHS on June 2.

College and high school biology instructors and their students answered the VHS plea for assistance in the survey. A number of schools have said that they will. Biology instructors have joined and have sent in membership applications for their interested students. We welcome these members!

The survey will continue as long as it is needed -- until many of the gaps in the distribution of a number of species are filled with records instead of the present "guesstimates".

Our color cover for the Special Bulletins (Nos. 37-38) has been re-run and will form the backbone of the information kit to be sent to high school biologists shortly. Report forms appear in the current bulletin - see last inside page. These forms should be used by the collector in sending preserved and carefully packaged specimens to a museum or university collection. A duplicate copy should be sent to VHS in care of the Secretary.

The next special bulletin will be on Virginian Turtles, Description and Distribution by County. It is hoped to have it out in time to greet the post-Labor Day return to classes. VHS will continue to recruit interested students at high school or college levels until all Virginia counties are represented.

Ideally, VHS should have a "team" composed of two or three students working under the guidance of an interested biology faculty member in each of Virginia's colleges or in the secondary schools.

Special bulletins on Virginian lizards, frogs and toads, and salamanders will round up the information kit for the survey. Interested members who specialize are invited to send in ideas for special or regular VHS Bulletins.

Dr. James L. Chamberlain

Dr. J. L. Chamberlain is employed as a vertebrate zoologist at the Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Va., where he has been a faculty member for eight years. He is particularly interested in salamanders and is currently building a teaching collection of the state's reptiles and amphibians.

He has worked as a field biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

of several state governments. He did his undergraduate work at Cornell University and holds advanced degrees from the University of Massachusetts and University of Tennessee. His doctoral study was on the ecology of southwestern Louisiana marshes. He was elected VHS President in 1963 for '64-'65. He is a member of Herpetologists' League, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, and Ecological Society of America.

COLLECTION NOTES CAPE HENRY, VA., VIRGINIA BEACH AREA

The following combines a list of reptiles and amphibians found in the vicinity of Cape Henry, a part of the former Princess Anne County now known as Virginia Beach.* The list is taken, in part, (#) from an article which appeared in American Midland Naturalist, Vol. 45, No. 1, pages 245-252, January, 1951, the

authors are John E. Werler and James McCallion who collected at Cape Henry, Va. in 1942, 1943 and 1944. The additional notes were taken by the VHS group during the recent spring, 1965, meeting. VHS has an excellent group of active members in the area. We will continue to compile notes from them.

Salamanders:

		Cape Henry
Marbled Salamander	<u>Ambystoma opacum</u>	#
Two-toed Amphiuma	<u>Amphiuma m. means</u>	#
Northern Dusky Salamander	<u>Desmognathus f. fuscus</u>	
Red-spotted Newt	<u>Diemictylus v. viridescens</u>	#
Northern Two-lined Salamander	<u>Eurycea b. bislineata</u>	
Red-backed Salamander	<u>Plethodon c. cinereus</u>	
Slimy Salamander	<u>Plethodon g. glutinosus</u>	col.
Greater Siren	<u>Siren lacertina</u>	USNM
Many-lined Salamander	<u>Stereochilus marginatus</u>	

Frogs and Toads:

Southern Cricket Frog	<u>Acris g. gryllus</u>	#
American Toad	<u>Bufo terrestris americanus</u>	#
Fowler's Toad	<u>Bufo woodhousei fowleri</u>	#
Eastern Narrow-mouthed Frog	<u>Gastrophryne c. carolinensis</u>	
Green Treefrog	<u>Hyla c. cinerea</u>	#
Northern Spring Peeper	<u>Hyla c. crucifer</u>	#
Pine Woods Treefrog	<u>Hyla femoralis</u> (Norfolk Museum)	
Eastern Gray Treefrog	<u>Hyla v. versicolor</u>	#
Brimley's Chorus Frog	<u>Pseudacris brimleyi</u>	
Bullfrog	<u>Rana catesbeiana</u>	col.
Greenfrog	<u>Rana clamitans melanota</u>	#
Northern Leopard Frog	<u>Rana pipiens</u>	#
Carpenter Frog	<u>Rana virgatipes</u>	#

Turtles:

Common Snapping Turtle	<u>Chelydra s. serpentina</u>	#
Eastern Painted Turtle	<u>Chrysemys p. picta</u>	col.
Spotted Turtle	<u>Clemmys guttata</u>	
Northern Chicken Turtle	<u>Dierochelys r. reticularia</u>	#
Eastern Mud Turtle	<u>Kinosternon s. subrubrum</u>	#
No. Diamond-backed Terrapin	<u>Malaclemmys t. terrapin</u>	
Florida Cooter	<u>Pseudemys f. floridana</u>	col.
River Cooter	<u>Pseudemys f. concinna</u>	
Redbellied Turtle	<u>Pseudemys r. rubriventris</u>	#
Stinkpot	<u>Sternotherus odoratus</u>	
Eastern Box Turtle	<u>Terrapene c. carolina</u>	continue

Cape Henry Collecting Notes, continued:

Lizards:Cape
Henry

Eastern Six-lined Racerunner	<u>Cnemidophorus s. sexlineatus</u>	#
Five-lined Skink	<u>Eumeces fasciatus</u>	col.
Southeastern Five-lined Skink	<u>Eumeces inexpectatus</u>	#
Broad-headed Skink	<u>Eumeces laticeps</u>	col.
Little Brown Skink	<u>Lygosoma laterale</u>	col.
Eastern Slender Glass Lizard	<u>Ophisaurus attenuatus</u> <u>longicaudus</u>	
Northern Fence Lizard	<u>Sceloporus undulatus</u> <u>hyacinthinus</u>	col. #

Snakes:

Brown Water Snake	<u>Matrix taxispilota taxispilota</u>	
Red-bellied Water Snake	<u>Matrix e. erythrogaster</u>	# col.
Northern Water Snake	<u>Matrix s. sipedon X fasciata</u>	# col.
Northern Brown Snake	<u>Storeria d. dekayi</u>	
Eastern Garter Snake	<u>Thamnophis s. sirtalis</u>	#
Eastern Ribbon Snake	<u>Thamnophis s. sauritus</u>	# col.
Eastern Smooth Earth Snake	<u>Haldea v. valeriae</u>	#
Eastern Hognose Snake	<u>Heterodon p. platyrhinos</u>	
Southern Ringneck Snake	<u>Diadophis p. punctatus</u>	#
Eastern Worm Snake	<u>Carphophis a. amoenus</u>	#
Eastern Mud Snake	<u>Farancia a. abacura</u>	#
Northern Black Racer	<u>Coluber constrictor</u>	#
Rough Green Snake	<u>Opheodrys aestivus</u>	#
Black Rat Snake	<u>Elaphe o. obsoleta</u>	
Eastern King Snake	<u>Lampropeltis g. getulus</u>	col.
Coastal Plain Milk Snake X Scarlet King Snake	<u>Lampropeltis doliata temporalis</u> <u>X L. doliata doliata</u>	#
Scarlet Snake	<u>Cemophora coccinea</u>	#
-/-Northern X Southern Copperhead	<u>Agkistrodon contortrix mokeson</u> <u>X A. c. contortrix (rare)</u>	#
-/-Eastern Cottonmouth	<u>Agkistrodon p. piscivorus</u>	#
-/-Canebrake Rattlesnake	<u>Crotalus horridus atricaudatus</u>	

-/- Deadly poisonous species

At Cape Henry, including Seashore State Park, the Copperhead is extremely rare, but it does occur. The Eastern Cottonmouth is fairly common in the cypress pools throughout the natural area. Three were captured and presented to the National Zoological Park.

The Canebrake Rattlesnake, though expected, does not appear to be present in the Seashore Natural area. No records are known. The possibility of Canebrakes farther south in the Virginia Beach area seems much more plausible. Records are desired. Please report to VHS.

STRANGE BEHAVIOR OF RED-SPOTTED
NEWT (Diemictylus v. viridescens)

LETTER FROM MR. LEWIS E. KING,
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PARKS

On the third day in April, 1965, which was the first day of the trout season in Virginia, Frank Nuchols of the Lexington Hunt Club had a strange experience in Bath County, Virginia. The trout season opened at noon and, in order to pass the morning hours, he went fishing for perch in a nearby pond. After trying many kinds of bait he decided to get some "spring lizards" for bait. He caught a few Dusky Salamanders (Desmognathus f. fuscus) and one specimen of the E. Mud Salamander (Pseudotriton m. montanus). After failing with the former, he harnessed the red E. Mud Salamander and began to get very delicate pulls on the line. Since he could not hook any fish, he very gently pulled in the line. Each and every time he had a male newt wrapped around the red spring lizard! So he had a lot of fun ----- catching newts! He finally took the harness off and brought the writer the specimens which are now in preservative.

Why did the newt notice the red mud salamander and not the Dusky? Did the red eft-like color have anything to do with the situation?

Has anyone ever noted or heard of an example of similar behavior?

(Colonel) Robert Carroll
Professor of Biology
Virginia Military
Institute, Lexington.

Comments solicited:

SEND IN YOUR LETTERS OR COMMENT

TO THE AUTHORS, OR TO THE VHS

EDITOR: 4706 Tallahassee Ave.
Rockville, Maryland

July 15,
1965

Dear Mr. Tobey:

I would like to thank you for your recent letter concerning my membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society. I would like to assure you that we will do everything we can in the STATE PARKS to assist the Herpetological Society in its endeavors. Many thanks, too, for the kind words concerning SEASHORE STATE PARK and Mr. Hooper, our naturalist there. We are very happy that VHS realized a successful meeting and field trip in that area.

Sincerely,

Lewis E. King
Assistant Commissioner
of Parks,
Pocahontas State Park
Chesterfield, Virginia
23832

Editor's note: The VHS wrote Mr. King stating it was our pleasure to have Mr. L.W. Hooper address the VHS meeting at the Norfolk Museum on June 5, and to visit the Seashore Natural Area on Sunday, June 6. On behalf of the officers and members of the Society we welcomed Mr. King's application for active membership in VHS. The Secretary has assured Mr. King of VHS desire to assist, unobtrusively, in the fine educational program which the State Parks are presenting, through sending the VHS Bulletin to all interested Park personnel who wish to be on the list. FT