

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF YORK CO.,
VA., AND THE NEWPORT NEWS-HAMPTON
AREA

by: Glen A. ENGELING
LTJG, USNR; VHS
Yorktown, Virginia

Very little collecting and preserving of herpetofauna has been done in YORK County, Va. In view of this, the writer has collected specimens in the county and in nearby Newport News and Hampton areas (these areas were formerly known as Warwick and Elizabeth City Co.) since September 1968. It is hoped that this paper may fill in some of the gaps which have existed in the knowledge of occurrence of amphibians and reptiles in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A large portion of the U.S. Naval Weapons Station, near Yorktown, Va., is located in YORK County. The station, being in an isolated section, is excellent for collecting both reptile and amphibian species.

Most of the specimens that were collected in YORK County have been preserved and, are presently located in the collection of the Peninsula Jr. Nature Museum which is on the Mariners' Museum grounds in Newport News, Va. Several specimens were kept alive in terrariums and aquariums in the Nature Museum. (Color slides were made of most specimens.)

Among the species which were observed and preserved are: 5 frogs and toads, 3 salamanders, 4 lizards, 7 snakes, and 7 turtles. Several of the snakes and turtles were not listed as records for YORK County in the VHS Special Bulletins (#38 and #58). (See listing, next page.)

Editor's Note:

Preserved specimens for which adequate locality data may be obtained will be placed on the VHS distribution maps. FJT

In order to add to the list of reptiles and amphibians for YORK County those found in the Newport News - Hampton area, a list of collected species was prepared. All Newport News - Hampton specimens, both alive and preserved, are located in the Peninsula Junior Nature Museum in Newport News, Va. Half of all species listed are preserved in the Nature Museum's collection; the other half are alive at the time of this writing. (September 1969 for the YORK Co., material, and July 1969 for the Newport News and Hampton area material.) See page two for list of reptiles and amphibians collected. ...

COLLECTING NOTES: YORK COUNTY AND NEWPORT NEWS--HAMPTON, Va.AMPHIBIANS:

		<u>Salamanders</u>	<u>YORK</u>	<u>NN-H</u>
<u>Amphiuma m. means</u>	Two-toed Amphiuma			x
<u>Desmognathus f. fuscus</u>	Northern Dusky Salamander		x	x
<u>Eurycea b. bislineata</u>	Northern Two-lined Salamander			x
<u>Eurycea l. guttolineata</u>	Three-lined Salamander		x	
<u>Notophthalmus v. viridescens</u>	Red-spotted Newt		x	
<u>Plethodon c. cinereus</u>	Red-backed Salamander			x
<u>Frogs and Toads</u>				
<u>Acris c. crepitans</u>	Northern Cricket Frog		x	
<u>Acris g. gryllus</u>	Southern Cricket Frog			x
<u>Bufo w. fowleri</u>	Fowler's Toad		x	x
<u>Hyla c. crucifer</u>	Northern Spring Peeper			x
<u>Hyla v. versicolor</u>	Eastern Gray Treefrog			x
<u>Rana c. melanota</u>	Green Frog		x	x
<u>Rana p. sphenoccephala</u>	Southern Leopard Frog		x	x
<u>Rana s. sylvatica</u>	Eastern Wood Frog		x	x

REPTILES

		<u>Lizards</u>		
<u>Eumeces fasciatus</u>	Five-lined Skink		x	x
<u>Eumeces inexpectatus</u>	SE Five-lined Skink		x	
<u>Lygosoma laterale</u>	Ground Skink		x	x
<u>Sceloporus u. hyacinthinus</u>	Northern Fence Lizard		x	x

Snakes

+ (poisonous species)

<u>Agkistrodon c. mokasen</u>	Northern Copperhead	+	x	
<u>Agkistrodon p. piscivorus</u>	Eastern Cottonmouth	+	x	
<u>Carphophis a. amoenus</u>	Eastern Worm Snake		x	x
<u>Cemophora coccinea copei</u>	Eastern Scarlet Snake			x
<u>Coluber c. constrictor</u>	Northern Black Racer		x	
<u>Crotalus h. atricaudatus</u>	Canebrake Rattlesnake	+		x
<u>Diadophis p. punctatus</u>	Southern Ringneck Snake		x	x
<u>Elaphe o. obsoleta</u>	Black Rat Snake		x	x
<u>Heterodon platyrhinos</u>	Eastern Hog-nosed Snake			x
<u>Lampropeltis g. getulus</u>	Eastern Kingsnake		x	x
<u>Natrix s. sipedon</u>	Northern Water Snake			x
<u>Opheodrys aestivus</u>	Rough Green Snake			x
<u>Storeria d. dekayi</u>	Northern Brown Snake			x
<u>Thamnophis s. sauritus</u>	Eastern Ribbon Snake			x
<u>Thamnophis s. sirtalis</u>	Eastern Garter Snake			x

(Editor's note: The Eastern Cottonmouth (+) is recorded from the vicinity of the Hampton Reservoir and the Patrick Henry Airport in the Newport News - Hampton, Va., area. Check with O.K. Goodwin, Moyer Rd., Newport News, a co-founder of VHS and one of our early officers of VHS. (See VHS B# 37-38). FJT

July-August 1969
(mailed in Dec.)COLLECTING NOTES: YORK COUNTY, AND NEWPORT NEWS - HAMPTON, VA.
Reptiles, continued:

	<u>Turtles</u>	<u>YORK Co.</u>	<u>NN-H</u>
<u>Chelonia m. mydas</u>	Atlantic Green Turtle		x
<u>Chelydra s. serpentina</u>	Common Snapping Turtle	x	x
<u>Chrysemys p. picta</u>	Eastern Painted Turtle	x	x
<u>Chrysemys r. rubriventris</u>	Red-bellied Turtle	x	
<u>Chrysemys s. scripta</u>	Yellow-bellied Turtle		x
<u>Clemmys guttata</u>	Spotted Turtle		x
<u>Kinosternum s. subrubrum</u>	Eastern Mud Turtle	x	x
<u>Malaclemmys t. terrapin</u>	Northern Diamondbacked	x	x
<u>Sternotherus odoratus</u>	Stinkpot	x	
<u>Terepene c. carolina</u>	Eastern Box Turtle	x	x

(It should be noted that the genus "Pseudemys" has been dropped and those species formerly appearing within that grouping have been placed in the genus Chrysemys. This reclassification was based on studies published in the scientific literature since VHSB#56.) FJT

Acknowledgements: Many people assisted the writer in the YORK Co., and Newport News-Hampton projects. Without their help, these records could not have been compiled. Especially deserving of hearty thanks are:

Brad Hawkins	William Allen	Russell Vaughn
Hugh Clark	Sue Millirons	John Sistare
	Jim Hall	

(LTJG) Glen A. Engeling
Box 42 Skiffes Creek Annex
U.S. Naval Weapons Station
Yorktown, Virginia 23491

REFERENCES:

- CONANT, Roger "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians." (1958)
- Special Bulletins: "Snakes of Virginia" (VHS B#37-38, 1964)
"Turtles of Virginia" (VHS B#57-58, 1968)
- Regular Bulletin: "List of Va. Amphibians and Reptiles" (VHS B#56, 1968).

VA. COLLECTING NOTES, VALLEY AND RIDGENOTES FROM THE SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTION'S DIVISION OF
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Three snakes, all DOR⁺, from AMHERST Co., Va., collected and deposited in the National Collection by Mr. W.H. Martin III of Leesburg, Va.

Elaphe guttata, Corn Snake, on Blue Ridge Parkway, ½ mile S of Rice Mountain overlook, in AMHERST Co., Va. Coll. 30 Aug. 1969 (USNM# 167,177)

Lampropeltis t. triangulum, an Eastern Milk Snake, taken on Blue Ridge Parkway, Otter Cr., AMHERST Co., Va. 31 Aug. 1969 (USNM# 167,178).

Opheodrys vernalis, Eastern Smooth Green Snake, Blue Ridge Parkway, 100ft. S of Bluff Mt. Tunnel, AMHERST Co., Va. Elev. 1,797 feet above sea level. It was collected on 8 August 1969. (USNM# 167,169) deposited on 19 November 1969 in U.S. National Museum. (R.G. Tuck, Jr.)

+D.O.R. = "Dead on the Road."

CAVE SALAMANDERS, cont'd:

Green Salamander (Aneides aeneus) Johnson's Cave No.2, RUSSELL Co., Va., coll. 13 July 1961 (USNM# 160,493)
Horton's Cave, SCOTT Co., Va., 2 specimens (USNM# 160,494/160,495).

PROVIDE YOUR COLLECTING NOTES ON PRESERVED SPECIMENS IN PERMANENT COLLECTIONS TO THE EDITOR, VHS B.

VIRGINIA LIMESTONE CAVES

Other specimens from Va. caves placed in the USNM Collection:

In VHS B#61, p.5, we noted an extension of the range of Cave Salamander (Eurycea lucifuga). A specimen, brought in to the U.S. National Museum by Mr. J. R. Holsinger, which had been taken at Ogden's Cave on Cedar Creek, FREDERICK Co., Va. This specimen is in the US National Collection (USNM# 160,487) collected on 1 Oct. 1961. According to Dr. Victor Hutchison of the University of Rhode Island, authority on cave salamanders, the most northerly locality record previously known for cave salamander (E. lucifuga) is a specimen in the Carnegie Museum collection, Pittsburgh, Pa., (CM# 5342) from Milpoint, W.Va. -- a distance of about 100 mi.

Northern Dusky Salamanders --- (Desmognathus f. fuscus) Ware's Cave, ALLEGHANY Co., Va. coll. 21 July 1962, (USNM# 160,483 to USNM# 160,486).

Long-tailed Salamanders (Eurycea l. longicauda), Old Mill Cave, MONTGOMERY Co., Va. Coll. 29 July 1962 (USNM# 160,489).

Wehrle's Salamander (Plethodon w. wehrlei), Old Mill Cave, Montgomery Co., Va. coll. 29 July '62 (USNM# 160,490).

Miller's Cove Cave, ROANOKE Co., Va., 2 specimens, coll. 30 June 1962, (USNM# 160,491/160,492).

(Continued in lefthand column...)

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS
OF NEWPORT NEWS -HAMPTON

This report is a supplement to the first report: pages 1-3, VHSB #62 covering the Newport News and Hampton area of the Lower Peninsula of Virginia.

Several additional specimens of local herpetofauna have been collected from this area. Some of the species listed aren't listed as county records for the Newport News and Hampton area (former Warwick and Elizabeth City Counties) in VHSB #38 and VHSB #58.

The species collected and preserved are as follows:

Canebrake Rattlesnake
Crotalus h. atricaudatus

Six-lined Racerunner
Cnemidophorus sexlineatus

Red-bellied Turtle
Chrysemys r. rubriventris

Stinkpot
Sternotherus odoratus

Rough Earth Snake
Virginia striatula

Red-bellied Water Snake
Natrix e. erythrogaster

At least one example of each species listed above is preserved. Preserved specimens are located in the Peninsula Jr. Nature Museum, 524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd. Newport News, Va., near Mariners Museum.

by: GLEN A. ENGELING,
LTJG, USNR; VHS

December 15, 1969

All the collecting data for each of the specimens of herpetofauna listed in this report and for those listed on pages 2 and 3, are on file in the museum. Each preserved specimen is catalogued, identified, tagged, and a color slide of each species is maintained in the museum for ready reference.

This data is available also for those species carried in the list for York County, Va. (pp.2-3).

The extremely fine and detailed color slides were photographed by Russell Vaughn, Newport News, Va. Several persons made valuable specimen donations to the writer. He wishes to thank: Carolyn Bosta, David Baker, Robert Berenson, H. V. Hooper, R. H. Kayton, Stan Piland.

References:

Conant's Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians (of Eastern U.S.) 1958..

List of Va. Amphibians and Reptiles (VHSB #56, 1968).

OTHER COLLECTING NOTES:

JAMES CITY COUNTY, VA.

A Red-bellied Turtle Chrysemys r. rubriventris was found along Interstate Rte #64, near Williamsburg, Va. on 2 June 69 by James R. Rilea. This specimen--given to Glen A. Engeling--was brought in to the Peninsula Jr. Nature Museum for identification and preservation.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VA.

A Smooth Earth Snake, Virginia v. valeriae, was donated to the Peninsula Jr. Nature Museum by Nat and Jim Webb on 9 April 69. The specimen was identified and preserved by Glen A. Engeling. The exact locality is not known.

E R R A T U M

----- Please drop the Wood Frog (Rana sylvatica) from the list of forms in the amphibian column p. 2 VHSB #62, mailed Dec. '69. (Later mailings corrected.)

My address, while on Navy duty, has been in the Yorktown, Va., area. My tour of duty has ended unexpectedly early. I would appreciate it if you would continue to send the VHS BULLETINS to me along with comments from readers.

Glen A. Engeling, LTJG, USNR

This page to be filed with

VHS BULLETIN No. 62

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED