

WHAT IS THEVIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SURVEY ?

It is a permanent record of the reptiles and amphibians of the state which have been collected, preserved, and maintained in the major scientific collections (listed on p. two).

All information available to date has been recorded on sixty Virginia outline maps (18"X 30"). On each, are recorded--the known Virginian forms--one or more species to a map. On the lower margin of the map, a matching set of labels gives the standard common name and the scientific name. A dot, red, green, or yellow, is put on the map at the spot where a specimen was collected. These are color-keyed to the labels.

A number appears on each dot for the scientific institution where the specimen is located. Many institutions in the state as well as some out-of-state, co-operate with VHS by supplying data and catalog numbers as Virginian specimens are entered into the registry. Foremost among the institutions keeping VHS informed of acquisitions of Va. material is the Smithsonian Institution - U. S. National Museum, Division of Amphibians and Reptiles, Washington, D.C.

(cont'd from righthand column:)

10) A dot is put on the VHS map for the species collected at the collection site given on the duplicate collecting slip filed with VHS, whether by you or receiving lab,

VHS

HOW TO PUT YOUR SPECIMEN"ON THE MAP"

- 1) Collect a new specimen in the field. It should be a reptile or amphibian in good identifiable condition.
 - 2) Carefully secure specimen(s). Thus, preventing injury, loss.
 - 3) Use a VHS Collecting Slip to record field data on the spot -- don't depend on memory!
 - 4) When you come out of the field make out a duplicate(s) VHS collecting data slip(s).
 - 5) Check the distribution, or range, of the species with the aid of Conant's Field Guide and VHS BULLETINS.
 - 6) Pick a specimen depository in your area: a university or college biology department on the VHS list which houses a permanent collection.
 - 7) Take specimen to the biology department lab, in person, or mail it, with original and duplicate data slips. Obtain (a) confirmation of identification; and (b) the catalogue number. Enter on both slips.
 - 8) Mail duplicate slip to VHS - c/o Secretary. Be certain it carries name of collector(s), and of laboratory where the specimen is located, and the individual specimen number.
 - 9) Prepare "collecting notes" for use, with your name, as the collector. Send to VHS-B.
- (cont'd in lefthand column:)

COLLECTIONS REPRESENTED ON VHS MAPS

(see page one story)

1) Smithsonian Institution	Washington, D.C.	(* VHS Member)
2) Cornell University	Ithaca, New York	* Dr. J. A. Peters
3) Bridgewater College	Bridgewater, Va.	* Dr. H. G. M. Jopson
4) Franklin College (Burger Coll.)	Franklin, Ind.	* W. L. Burger
5) Univ. of Mich. (J.T.Wood Coll.)	Ann Arbor, Mich.	
6) Museum of Comparative Zoology	Cambridge, Mass.	
7) Shenandoah National Park Coll.	Luray, Va.	E. Ray Schaffner
8) Norfolk Museum (Rageot Coll.)	Norfolk, Va.	Phil Morrison
9) Carnegie Museum (Richmond Coll.)	Pittsburgh, Pa.	* Neil D. Richmond
10) American Museum of Natural History	New York City	* Dr. Richard Zweifel
11) Academy of Natural Sciences	Philadelphia, Pa.	
12) University of Maryland	College Park, Md.	* Dr. R. Highton
13) Ohio State Univ. (Valentine Coll.)	Columbus, Ohio	Dr. Barry D. Valentine
14) Ohio State University	Columbus, Ohio	* Dr. M. Giltz
15) Randolph-Macon Woman's College	Lynchburg, Va.	
16) Natural Hist. Soc. of Md. Coll.	Baltimore, Md.	
17) Duke University Collection	Durham, N.Car.	* Dr. Jos. R. Bailey
18) Bedford County, Va. Coll. (Liberty High School)	Bedford, Va.	Mrs. J.J. Thaxton
19) Caroline County, Va. Coll	Bowling Green, Va.	* Mrs. Dale Brittle
20) University of Virginia Mtn. Lake Biol. Station	Charlottesville, & Pembroke, Va.	* Dr. J.J. Murray, Jr.
21) College of William & Mary	Williamsburg, Va.	* Dr. G.R. Brooks, Jr.
22) Virginia Polytechnic Inst.	Blacksburg, Va.	* Dr. Robert D. Ross

Note: Other collections in the Virginia universities, colleges and secondary schools, should be on the list above. In time they will be -- and the data posted on the VHS Maps. Please help..

If your collection is not listed and you believe it should be, Please WRITE the VHS BULLETIN List Va. specimens now preserved in good identifiable condition. Give name, locality, date, each.

Several members and friends of VHS have indicated a desire to look over the VHS distribution maps at length. We are trying to accommodate these requests.

VHS would like to offer its assistance to anyone for such information or comment as may be obtained by the exchange. It's a two-way street. If you drop VHS a note we'll try to work out a mutually convenient plan.

LETTERS, COMMENTS, AND IDEAS

An Open Column for VHS Members, and readers who want to discuss any aspects of Va. herpetology.

Letters to VHS should be written for use in this column...

" . . . I am interested in any literature on genus Lampropeltis. Particularly, in obtaining USNM Bulletin #114, "A Revision of the Kingsnakes-- Genus Lampropeltis" (1921) by: F.N. Blanchard. . . . "

(Major) Ronald L. Murray
Qtrs. 4806-B MCB
Quantico, Va. 22134

Members' comments are sought on revision of VHS Bulletins #37-#38. Bring any new Va. records to VHS notice. Use the "collecting notes route."

The Milk Snakes (Lampropeltis) are deserving of your close attention. Their distribution in Virginia, going by present and past concepts of species and subspecies, is extremely confusing. Dr. K. L. Williams, Ass't Professor, Dep't of Biological Sciences, Northwestern State College of Louisiana, at Natchitoches, La. 71457, has a real puzzle on his hands.-- We hope to report the results of his study when completed.

". . . I enjoy receiving the VHS BULLETINS. You folks are doing a good job of disseminating information. . . . I will be moving to Cleveland in August. Keep up the good work! Please send future BULLETINS to:

(Dr.) Robert F. Clarke
Educational Research
Council of America
Rockefeller Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

(Dr. Clarke is well acquainted with the SE Va. herpetofauna. He was formerly in the Norfolk area --before a long period of service as Professor of Biol. at Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas..) FT

M E E T I N G :

VHS is planning a joint meeting with the Maryland Herpetological Society at the National Zoo in Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C. on Saturday, December 20, 1969. Watch BULLETIN notes!

VHS members living in Maryland are encouraged to become members of MdHS. The Marylanders meet in Baltimore on the third Saturday of each month at 9:45 a.m. VHS is passing all Md-DC matters over to the MdHS.

VHS LETTERS, COMMENTS, AND IDEAS

To VHS:

(May 5, 1969)

. . . With a moderate interest in Virginia herpetofauna, I am a member of VHS. Yesterday, while working in the garden, I unearthed an Eastern Spadefoot. Is the specimen worth collecting? He is still alive and happy in some cool loamy soil.

/s/ (Mr.) A. Bruce Davenport
Rte. #3, Box 127
Charlottesville, Va.
22901

VHS wrote back 10 May 1969 to say that Eastern Spadefoots are on record from PAGE, ROCKINGHAM, And MONTGOMERY Counties, but no record from Albemarle County, Va. It was suggested that the specimen might be taken in to Dr. J. J. Murray, Jr., at the Biology Dep't, Univ. of Virginia. Once there, it could be put on the VHS map for the species. (The Eastern Spadefoot has been taken on the Coastal Plain in ESSEX, LANCASTER, NEW KENT, JAMES CITY, PRINCE GEORGES, YORK, GREENVILLE, and ACCOMACK.)
YORK, GREENVILLE

(May 19,)

I have given the specimen (in alcohol) of the Eastern Spadefoot to Dr. J. J. Murray, Jr., at University of Virginia . . . He was pleased to receive it, and will place it in the U. of

Virginia collection at their Mountain Lake Biological Station near Pembroke, Va. He verified the identification. Dr. Murray has a copy of the collecting data . . . I appreciated the information on Va. occurrences. . . . Sincerely,

/s/ (Mr.) A. Bruce Davenport

Collecting slip shows specimen collected near Ivy, Albemarle County., Va., in clear weather May 3, 1969. Temp. 60°F. Site was a vegetable garden. Specimen was docile when unearthed with a tiller.

The find recalled an article, in VIRGINIA WILDLIFE magazine August 1957 (Vol. XVIII, No. 8 pp. 8-9, 22-24) by W. Leslie Burger (Second President of VHS) on the Eastern Spadefoot in Va.

(August 26,)

. . . On the morning of August 20, after the terrible flooding of Hurricane CAMILLE, I heard what must have been 2 Eastern Spadefoots in my wet lawn. Although I have never heard this frog before, except on records, I feel sure of the identification. On the following morning I heard, somewhat less vociferously, the same call. So, the creatures must be fairly well established in this area.

/s/ (Mr.) A. Bruce Davenport

COLLECTING NOTESPRINCE WILLIAM County:

On 23 June 1969 two brown king-snakes (Lampropeltis c. rhombomaculata) were collected, dead, on Rte. #619, in PR. WILLIAM Co. One was taken 2 mi. W of Route #28; the other, 1.3 mi. E of US Rte. 29-211 and preserved at the U.S. National Museum (USNM #166,859 and USNM#166,860. On 13 July 1969 a rough green snake (Opheodrys aestivus) DOR* on Va. Rte. 234, $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. S of Rte. 29-211 in PRINCE WILLIAM Co. Va. (USNM#166,861). Two specimens which will go to USNM shortly are: a smooth ground snake (Virginia v. valeriae), and a Queen snake (Regina s. septemvittata). That leaves only four on the PRINCE WILLIAM Co. list to be changed from "expected"-- (e)-- in the county to a county record (X). (See VHS-B#38).

(Major) Ronald L. Murray, USMC
Qtrs. 4806-B MCB
Quantico, Va., 22134

HAMPTON-NEWPORT NEWS, Va.

On Friday 18 April 1969 a Canebrake Rattlesnake (Crotalus h. atricaudatus) 4 ft. 4 in. long was killed in Hampton, Va. near Interstate Rte. 64.

(LTJG) Glen Engeling, USN
3206 Mosby Court
Hampton, Va. 23361

*DOR -- Dead on road.

Virginia Limestone Caves:

The cave salamander (Eurycea lucifuga) is now on record from FREDERICK Co., Va. Specimens of the cave salamander were received by the USNM from Mr. John R. Holsinger. These were from: (a) Ogden's Cave on Cedar Creek, FREDERICK Co., Va. (USNM #160,487) collected 1 Oct. 1961; (b) Horton's Cave, SCOTT Co., Va. (USNM#160,496) collected, 16 Aug. 1962; and (c) Fugate's Cave, LEE Co., Va., (USNM#160,-488) collected 18 Aug. 1962.

According to Dr. Victor Hutchinson, Univ. of Rhode Island, an authority on the cave salamander, the most northerly locality previously known for E. lucifuga was in southern HIGHLAND Co., Va., some 80 to 100mi. to the SW.

Caving herpetologists, biologically oriented speleologists-- should be on watch for the cave salamander in caves that lie in between, or see if they may be able to extend the range to NE into W. Va. or Md. Congratulations to Mr. J. R. Holsinger & Dr. John E. Cooper for placing these specimens in the USNM.

Other specimens from Va. caves placed in the USNM collection: 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. 29 July 1962 (USNM#160-489)

(continued)

TESTING ANURANS FOR PREFERENCE

At the University of Maryland Dr. Jack P. Hailman, Assistant Professor of Zoology, and Dr. Robert G. Jaeger, Research Assistant, are conducting experiments testing different species of frogs and toads for their preferences of color and light intensity, which require live animals. It takes one hour to run just one frog through the experiments, but already, Drs. Hailman and Jaeger have come up with some interesting results. **WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ?**

Do you have any individuals of the Virginian species listed ? Even a single frog would be valuable to these scientists. All frogs and toads can be returned alive and unhurt. Or, if you like, you could donate the animals for further study of the microscopic structure of their retinas -- the light-

NEEDED FOR VISION STUDIES:

Eastern Spadefoot (12)
(Scaphiopus holbrooki)

Southern Toad (8)
(Bufo terrestris)

Oak Toad (10)
(Bufo uercicus)

Green Treefrog (10)
(Hyla cinerea)

Gray Treefrog (10)
(Hyla versicolor)

sensitive tissues within their eyes -- after they've been run through the experiments. When Doctors Hailman and Jaeger publish the results of their studies you'll be acknowledged in print, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you've helped repay part of the debt owed professional herpetologists and zoologists who have provided us with information, advice, field guides, and many answers to our many questions.

HELP ?

Send your frogs and toads, carefully packed and provided with moisture and air, to: Dr. Robert G. Jaeger, Dep't of Zoology, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. 20742. Be sure to include your name and address, and state whether or not you wish your specimens returned.

Robert G. Tuck, Jr.
Div. of Amphibians
and Reptiles, USNM
Washington, D.C.

Brimley's Chorus Frog (15)
(Pseudacris brimleyi)

Mountain Chorus Frog (3)
(Pseudacris brachyphona)

Pine Barrens Treefrog (15)
(Hyla andersoni)

Eastern Narrow-mouthed Frog
(Gastrophryne c. carolinensis)

SEE ARTICLE ABOVE FOR ADDRESS OF
DRS. HAILMAN AND JAEGER, U. of Md.

NEW MdHS PRESIDENT: Robert G. TUCK

Robert Gough Tuck, Jr., a charter member of VHS, was elected President of the Maryland Herpetological Society (MdHS). He is on the Division of Reptiles and Amphibians staff at the U.S. National Museum which is part of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., working with Dr. James A. Peters, Curator of the Division. Bob has been the source of many of VHS BULLETIN's items and notes.

As President of MdHS, he adds another bond between these two societies on each bank of the Potomac River.

Bob answered VHS' first call to membership in February 1958. At the time Bob was living at Point-of-Rocks, Maryland. He came to VHS membership with the highest recommendations of the late Dr. Doris M. Cochran. When he agreed that VHS should be launched, he was President of the Frederick (Md.) High

School Science Club; First Page Editor of the School Newspaper; had won 1st place in the Frederick Science Fair in biology in 1957, 1958, and was to win it again, as a senior, in '59!

Bob has since been through his four years at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. where he majored in zoology. He has had a wealth of field experience in mammalogy, entomology, and vertebrate paleontology. He served as field mammalogist for a Smithsonian expedition to Iran and West Pakistan in 1963-65, and as field-herpetologist in Trinidad, W.I. in late 1967. Through his efforts, beginning in early 1967 the USNM, Division of Reptiles and Amphibians has acknowledged donations of Virginia specimens to the National Collection through the pages of VHS BULLETIN.

All in VHS wish him the best!

VHS MEMBERS LIVING IN MARYLAND are encouraged to become members of the MARYLAND HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY. MdHS can be reached at 2643 No. Charles St., Baltimore, Md. 21218.

President Bob Tuck and their Treasurer, Dan Lyons, will be pleased to hear from you. VHS will pass all Md. matters over to MdHS for consideration. . .

VHS

We are endeavoring to establish the habit of corresponding -- on matters of Virginian herpetology through the pages of the VHS BULLETIN. Our prime concern is the area we serve.

The VHS BULLETIN tries to cover the news on Virginian herpetofauna and items related thereto. If that is being "provincial", then so be it!

FJT