

VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FORMATION NOTED BY CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

The June, 1958, VIRGINIA WILDLIFE magazine, publication of the state Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, carried a notice of the organization of this Society. The special article appears on page 20 of the current edition. The objectives of the Virginia Herpetological Society (as carried in Bulletin No. 1, March, 1958) were outlined. Accompanying the write-up was a progress report. The acting secretary is pleased to note additional progress in the first three months of the Society's life. From a "hard core" of thirty members we have now an "interested" following of close to eighty. A few of these are former Virginia residents now living elsewhere. The regular distribution of the Bulletin is close to one-hundred copies!

REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Members in good standing (membership cards received with this edition of the VHS Bulletin) total 23. This number is well distributed over the types of memberships offered (see application below) and are as follows:

Faculty	6	Staff (museum, zoo, or other)	General	4
Co-founders	4		Student	6
Honorary	2	Press-Radio	Exchange	1

Indebtedness contracted by the Society has been for the following:

Printing membership cards	\$ 5.00	all mimeographing	\$ 6.55
line cut of insignia "	4.47	postage (to date)	11.66

Some dues reminders are being sent out with this Bulletin. Your membership card is your receipt. If you have paid your dues and not yet received your card let the acting secretary-treasurer know immediately. As soon as we have memberships firmed up the first roster of members can be mimeographed for distribution. Local organization -- community, county and regional (multi-county) -- will be aided by the early completion of this roster. IF YOU ARE GETTING THE BULLETIN and do not wish to have YOUR NAME on the roster please submit such a request in writing to the acting secretary before July 1st. If your Bulletin is incorrectly addressed in any way (spelling, etc.) please let us know immediately so that we may have it right!

WORTH NOTICE ! (Send in your bits of intelligence for this department.)

An illustrated article on the Natural History of the Dismal Swamp by Roger H. Rageot, Curator of the Norfolk Museum, dealing primarily with reptiles and amphibs is soon to be scheduled for publication in VIRGINIA CAVALCADE.

Several members of the Philadelphia Herpetological Society (PHS) are coming down to Deep Creek, Va. (8 mi. north of Wallaceton, Va.) on June 20th to finish a wildlife film in process for TV use. * * * * An article on the PHS has been accepted for future publication in NATURE MAGAZINE. (Date to be announced as soon as known.)

GREETINGS TO THE NEW SOCIETY (VHS) Came in during May from: J. Lear Grimmer, new Associate Director of the National Zoological Park (Smithsonian) Washington, D.C. Mr. Grimmer has joined the VHS and it was our pleasure to present him a membership card in person on a recent visit to the NZP. * * * * Lieutenant William Shiner, (formerly of Petersburg, Va.) wrote his best wishes for the group's success from Fort Gordon, Georgia. * * * * William L. Witt, A/2C, Otis Air Force Base, Mass. sent his best to all and a list of specimens noted in the colder climes at Otis.

EXCELLENT BIBLIOGRAPHY SUPPLIED ON HERPETOLOGY OF DELMARVA PENINSULA

Dr. Clyde F. Reed is well-known to most of our scientific readers. He is the author of many papers on the herpetofauna of Maryland and Delmarva which, of course, takes in the Virginia Eastern Shore counties of Accomac and Northampton. He has one of the largest collections of specimens from the Delmarva region. The Reed Herpetorium at 10105 Harford Rd., Baltimore 34, Maryland, houses some 5,000 specimens. Dr. Reed has been actively collecting in Virginia since 1953. Recent years were devoted to Dismal Swamp and northward to the Northern Neck.

Dr. Reed is the author of an index to both COPEIA (the publication of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists) and HERPETOLOGICA (publication of The Herpetologists' League.) We are reminded that the more scholarly work in this field appears in these excellent publications and in the Virginia Journal of Science as in other state journals of science.

Dr. Reed publishes a series known as "Contributions to the Herpetology of Maryland and Delmarva." A set of these on hand in the Society's files is being studied now and as soon as results can be recorded the information relative to Accomac and Northampton counties will be circulated in abbreviated form. The papers will then be put in the Society's reference collection and be available on loan to Faculty members.

WORK ON THE TRIASSIC OF VIRGINIA ?

Dr. David H. Dunkle, U.S. National Museum, Washington 25, D.C. would like to hear from those members, faculty, students, or other, who are interested in the fossil reptiles of the Triassic in Virginia. He suggests that much careful work remains to be done in this area and welcomes a note from interested parties.

Luncheon with Dr. Dunkle at the National Press Club in Washington turned up some tidy taxonomic tactics. He has the newspaper office in his Northern Neck community save the carcasses of unusual reptiles brought in by the populace. He reports to the news office periodically and makes identifications. (This might be a handy idea for much-desired close co-operation with the sometimes bewildered press taxonomists.)

A WORD OF CAUTION LEST WE CONFINE OURSELVES TO TOO NARROW AN AREA was passed on at the same luncheon. In our quest for new species to add to county checklists let us not neglect the other phases of herpetology: ecology, conservation, the study of life cycles and genetics. Many other collectible data of great scientific interest are properly within the scope of our first stated society objective: "Scientific study of the state's herpetofauna."

GREETINGS FROM THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Secretary of The Virginia Society of Ornithology (publishers of The Raven), Robert J. Watson, 906 No. Wayne St. Arlington 1, Va., wrote: "As a member (and secretary) of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, I am glad to see the appearance of another organization with the objective of increasing and spreading knowledge of the natural history of the state." (Write us at the address given below!)

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Membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society is welcomed by:

- name
- address
- title
- occupation

Faculty, Staff, Student, Press, Radio membership; dues \$1.00 per yr. (Note "for dues All other gainfully employed persons; dues \$2.00 per yr. Send check payable to: Franklin Tobey, Jr., acting sec'y-treasurer, VHS, Rt #2, Box 241, McLean, Va.