

## SALUTE TO SCOUTING

Among February's celebrated anniversaries is the birthday of Boy Scouting.

Many of us acknowledge the debt we owe to Scouting. Adult members are encouraged to lend whatever aid they can to local Boy Scout troops, explorer posts, Cub Packs and neighborhood or district Boy Scout leaders. Adult members can do this most appropriately by the coaching of scouts who may wish to obtain merit badges within our field of interest. These are "REPTILE STUDY" and "ZOOLOGY" in the Boy Scout program, and, for a Girl Scout, the "Reptile and Amphibian" badge.

AN ELEMENTARY AND WELL-BALANCED COURSE IN HERPETOLOGY comes neatly packed in a sixty-page booklet with ample photographs, good illustrations and readable text. The price, complete, is 35 cents. We refer, of course, to one of a number of fine pamphlets in the Scout Merit Badge pamphlet series. The one we have in mind is simply called "REPTILE STUDY". Author of this valuable booklet is one of the nation's leading herpetologists -- Roger Conant -- Curator of Reptiles, Philadelphia Zoological Gardens, Philadelphia, Pa.

The booklet can serve as a basic minimum fund of knowledge for the person who has a more-than-casual interest in herpetology. The acquisition of this pamphlet, and an understanding of its content is a goal which all younger VHS members should set for themselves.

Scouts who aspire to knowledge of amphibians and reptiles should set out early to gain this award.

The REPTILE STUDY pamphlet may be found in the local school, or public, libraries in your community. It is ideal for high school-age beginners in herpetology. More sophisticated students may employ it as a "refresher." Even well-informed students may find in it those facts which are assumed, by writers of the more advanced reptile texts, to be basic knowledge. Look over its contents. Brush up on items where your background information may be on thin ice.

A GOOD SUPPLEMENT TO YOUR LIBRARY ON HERPETOLOGY is the "NATURAL HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICAN AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES" by Dr. James A. Oliver, published by the D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc. New York (1955) available in public libraries in larger communities.

VHS ENCOURAGES ITS MEMBERS TO TAKE PART IN THE SCOUTING PROGRAM. Adult leadership is always needed in the community. Many times the unavailability of adult counselors in "REPTILE STUDY" or "ZOOLOGY" is enough to discourage a scout from further pursuit of his interest in these fields. An interested scout goes to his Troop Leader and asks for the name of a "counselor." As it happens, all too frequently, an examiner may not be listed. Check with your local Scout Troop leaders to see if there is a space for you in the position of M.B. counselor.

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The VHS BULLETIN is a newsletter appearing at least six times a year. Circulation is about 300. Special issues are addressed to about 200 additional individuals -- science and biology instructors in colleges and secondary schools throughout Virginia.

VHS is a non-profit, voluntary association of persons who are more than casually interested in the reptiles and amphibians of Virginia and of adjacent states. The Society's aims are both scientific and educational -- the collection and communication of accurate data on the Virginian herpetofauna. Membership dues are \$1 a year.

The VHS Bulletin is intended to help readers keep abreast of the latest information concerning Virginian herpetology. The editors invite comments and contributions to the end that the newsletter will continue to be effective and informative.

A SALUTE TO SCOUTING continued

TO THOSE PERSONS ALREADY LISTED AS COUNSELORS IN REPTILE STUDY MERIT BADGE or the Reptile and Amphibian (GS) badge, VHS lends a hand. They need not affiliate with VHS unless impelled to do so. They should be on the VHS mailing list, at least.

The VHS Bulletin will provide them with data on local reptiles or amphibians, check lists, and popular guides to the Virginia species. A counselor may choose to hold these for reference or pass them on to scouts who come to them for advice.

OFFICERS AND ADULT MEMBERS OF VHS should make an effort to visit the scout camps during the coming camp season. This can be done as part of a program of co-operation with the camp naturalist, if any, or a camp program director. The great hope is that this can be done with out disturbance to the camp nature program and with benefit to the Va. reptile and amphibian census which we hope to have underway by early summer. The seasons are short and planning should begin now.

THE CAMP ASSISTANT NATURALISTS can help explain the need for careful observation, note-taking and preservation of specimens of interest alive, or if necessary, in a solution of formalin. Specimens of scientific interest should be placed in one of the permanent depository collections. We will be pleased to announce any unusual finds in the summer and fall VHS Bulletins -- with credit to the collector. Collection data slips will be supplied with each edition.

EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO KEEP THE REPTILE STUDY MERIT BADGE BEFORE SCOUTS as a desirable award. This should be done in balance with the other badges in the Nature grouping. REPTILE STUDY is an optional or elective badge. It isn't a "required" badge for attaining the Eagle Scout rank; nor should it. Yet, the award should not be neglected --for safety reasons alone.

SOMETHING EVERY SCOUT SHOULD KNOW Ideally, each scout should be familiar with the harmless snakes and know the poisonous snakes, on sight, for the area around home or summer camp. Realistically, it may rest on one scout in each patrol, or two or three scouts in a troop, to separate the non-poisonous from the poisonous varieties. A scout who cannot spare himself or his hiking companions from possible grief, or needless worry, on this point is not really "prepared".

On Nature Badges, quite naturally, personal specialties will develop. Ideally, each troop should have a "troop herpetologist" -- a scout, or leader, who is able to confirm the identification of the reptiles with a degree of competence which satisfies the needs of safety and wildlife conservation.

PASS THE WORD ABOUT VHS TO NATURE DIRECTORS, MERIT BADGE DEANS, AND REPTILE STUDY MERIT BADGE HOLDERS AND COUNSELORS. VHS will place their names on the mailing lists to receive the VHS Bulletin on a regular basis. MAY WE RECEIVE A MENTION IN YOUR SCOUT NEWSLETTER?

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"REPTILE STUDY" "ZOOLOGY" or "REPTILE and AMPHIBIAN"

MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS -- (BSA, or GS)

Send your name and address to the Secretary, VHS, in order to receive the VHS Bulletin regularly, without obligation. Write: Franklin Tobey, Secretary, VHS, 4706 Tallahassee Ave. Rockville, Md.

If you are not a member, but would like to help in the VHS program, please consider membership. We can accomplish much more with your help! Write: Dr. P.H. Knipling, 2623 Military Rd. Arlington, Va.

(fill out and follow instructions on detachable slip on the inside back cover of this copy of VHS Bulletin)

MESSAGE TO VHS MEMBERS FROM THE SOCIETY'S PRESIDENT

Much is yet to be done before we obtain an accurate knowledge of the reptiles and amphibians of our state. There lies before every member of the Va. Herpetological Society, therefore, unparalleled opportunity to advance our knowledge of this fascinating field of natural history by making careful notes on the life history, habits, behavior and ecology of amphibians and reptiles which we observe.

I believe, also, that much can be learned through regional and county records. However, in the year 1964 I would certainly like to see a particular emphasis on the study of life histories. The knowledge of many species is incomplete. It is a study in which everyone can participate, from the youngest to the oldest, with the most gratifying results. Remember, any observations in the field could become important!

Today, when man contemplates the exploration of the moon, there exists right at our doorstep a big region that still retains many an unexplored corner. This region, as you have undoubtedly guessed, is none other than the Great Dismal Swamp of southeastern Virginia.

Dismal Swamp is an interesting place in which to collect reptiles and amphibians and for most groups has a rich fauna which will repay the serious collector for his efforts. With the rapid elimination of many excellent collecting-grounds and the problem of finding large natural habitats for undisturbed work. It is very stimulating to have this great unspoiled region so accessible to most of us. It certainly presents a challenge!

The Dismal Swamp is the northernmost of a chain of southeastern swamps which extend all the way to Florida. Because of this fact the fauna of the Dismal Swamp is unique. Some primarily northern species and others usually found further south than Virginia, occur there.

The EASTERN COTTONMOUTH is a good example. A few years back a Carolina Pigmy Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus m. miliarius*) was collected on the southern edge of the Dismal Swamp near the North Carolina state line in the Northwest River section. It was found in Virginia and certainly is a most interesting record. More specimens from that region are needed to more fully substantiate this record. This is just one example of some of the work to be done in Great Dismal Swamp.

Of course, the low ground of the entire Coastal Plain provides many swamps of notable interest, such as the Dahl Swamp in Accomack Co. on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

These swamps form a world somewhat apart -- an elusive world of light and shadow -- where heavy rainfall and high humidity prompt the growing of a lush vegetation which form a perfect habitat for many types of wildlife. This is true especially of the almost semitropical area of our southeastern part of the state. Indeed the number of reptiles to be found in any county is roughly indicated by the parallels of latitude. While some of the reptiles inhabit the dry burning desert, most are lovers of the wet swampy situations. It is wetland that offers a climate which is reminiscent of the Age of Reptiles.

Roger H. Rageot  
President, VHS ('63-'64)

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ROGER H. RAGEOT was Nature Program Director for a period at the Pipsico Boy Scout Reservation in Surry County, Virginia, -- the largest scout reservation in Tidewater. This was a "bus-man's holiday" for Roger who is Curator of Natural History at the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences, Norfolk, Virginia. He is a co-founder of VHS and was elected President of VHS for 1963-1964 following the Society's biennial meeting in 1962 at Camp Shawondasee, near Richmond, Va. another fine Scout Camp.

REASONS FOR CAREFUL OBSERVATION OF SNAKES

by R.L. Guillaudeu, M.D.

WHAT SHOULD WE LOOK FOR IN CARING FOR HARMLESS SNAKES IN CAPTIVITY?

This question was asked at the last biennial meeting at Camp Shawondasee, near Chesterfield Court House, Virginia.

A good reference comes to mind: Clifford Pope's "SNAKES ALIVE" has a few suggestions, such as:

(1) name and sex; (2) source ----- how, when, where, and by whom, it was caught; (3) time and place of capture; (4) growth measurement and weights at intervals.

(5) Feeding: type, size and weight of food taken and date; readiness and difficulties observed, if any.

(6) Drinking: how much and how often? (7) Elimination of waste.

(8) Shedding: date of first sign, milkiness, skin clearing, soaking, and shed; length of shed skin, is it in one piece, or shredded, are there any skin lesions, blisters?

(9) Reproductive or courtship activity: season, date, and time.

(10) Disposition: docile, or hard to handle without receiving bites?

(11) Intelligence: (Be careful not to go beyond real observations.)

Another reference is Joseph Hickey's "Guide to Bird Watching" which includes an outline for a life history study of a bird. It can probably be adapted to a life history study of a reptile with relatively little difficulty. Some questions for which I would like to have answers follow:

(1) Does a snake coil to the left or to the right with any greater frequency, or preference?

(2) Personal observations suggest quite a bit of inability to cope with their normal prey before, and during the shedding cycle.

What natural consequences follow the shedding cycle? (3) Does shedding frequency relate to the condition of the skin -- external parasites, or injury -- as well as to growth?

(4) Growth: Do snakes continue to grow indefinitely? Will they grow faster if fed more? Will they grow largest if fed steadily or if fed on a more limited schedule?

(5) What cage conditions are needed for best (optimum) growth or for reproductive activity? In a constant environment is courtship activity related to a particular season? Is it related to length of daylight, or to temperature?

(6) What effect does temperature have on growth or shedding?

(7) What can you observe about body temperature self-regulation?

(8) Rate of metabolism may be calculated by measuring oxygen uptake and carbon dioxide production. How do these vary depending on food or the time interval since feeding?

(9) What relation does water have to frequency of waste elimination?

(10) Does frequent handling make a snake grow faster, or feel better?

(11) What are the average life expectancies in captivity of good feeders, poor feeders, or, of different species? (continued)

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With this issue of the VHS Bulletin the Society is endeavoring to reach scout merit badge deans, particularly those for the nature merit badge grouping, reptile study and zoology merit badge counselors, scout camp naturalists and assistant camp naturalists.

District and Council leaders: Please run a note in your newsletter suggesting that reptile study merit badge counselors write to the Secretary, VHS, and have their name placed on the mailing list for future copies of the Bulletin. We would welcome their close participation in the Society's program.

VHS is all-inclusive, not an exclusive society!

What should we look for in caring for harmless snakes in captivity ?  
(continued from page four)

(12) How many times does a snake yawn after feeding? Is this yawn related to the size of the prey ?

(13) What percent of body weight should be fed how often to obtain maximum growth rate ?

(14) What can be observed about the length of body in relation to age ? Is this relation seen in captivity under constant cage conditions ?

(15) Is a snake more likely to bask in sunshine when shedding is due, or when hungry, or filled, or when cold, or depending on season?

(16) What interaction between two or more different species can you observe ?

(17) Are there any parasites on the snake -- internal, external ? Any evidence of diseases, shedding difficulties, earlier injury?

R.L. Guillaudeu, M.D.

NEWS DISPATCH POINTS UP NEED FOR GOOD INFORMATION ON FEEDING HABITS

Under the headline "Diet for Rare Snake Gives Chicago Zoo Headache" the article noted: Brookfield Zoo herpetologists have a problem: How to keep a snake alive. The zoo received a 3½-foot snake with spectacular irridescent blue and orange-yellow markings. Captured two weeks before in North Borneo, it had been identified as an example of Gonyophis margaritatus. (One species occurs in Cen.Amer.)

It was the only one of its kind in captivity. Dr. George Rabb, the Brookfield Zoo's Director of Research, said that the snake might survive only two more weeks without food, and that, so far, he has been unable to find anything the snake will eat. The expedition that captured the snake left the area almost immediately because of political tensions and didn't have time to identify the food.

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REPORT FROM A SCOUT MEMBER (publication delayed)

In the latter part of September, 1961 at the Boy Scouts of America National Capital Area Council's "Projectoree" a Mole Snake (Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata) was found under a scoutmaster's car. The location was near the CIA building on the Leiter Estate in Fairfax County, Va. The snake is about 36 inches long and is an olive-drab color. It is greenish brown with reddish-brown spots on the center of the back. These are about half the size of the snake's head. It did not bite.

I took it home and identified it by using the "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians" by Roger Conant. The snake was kept in a 68 degree temperature and then, on recommendation from Mr. Lester Ratliff, National Zoo staff, it was moved to a warmer location of about 78 - 80 degrees the first time it was fed. The snake went without food, except for water, until January 20, 1962 at which time it was fed raw hamburger. It was fed again on February 5, at which time I helped it shed its skin.

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LAWS FOR LOG-ROLLERS

- I. Study the local snakes first; then LOOK before you touch!
- II. Do NOT handle poisonous snakes without tools or training!
- III. Though trained, do not take risks with venomous snakes.
- IV. Hunt using the buddy system -- it may save your life, or his.
- V. Do not enter upon a property without the owner's permission.
- VI. Students (under 21) obtain your parents' permission and carry a written and signed waiver of responsibility for injury which can be presented to property owner where you have o.k. to collect.
- VII. Adults, check your insurance policy and status of hospitalizath.
- VIII. Close all gates, replace logs, rocks, slabs, affecting habitat.
- IX. Do NOT collect more specimens than you need for study or record.
- X. Do NOT litter an area with glass jars, food wrappers, etc.

FAUQUIER COUNTY COLLECTING NOTES

During the summer of 1962 a natural history inventory was taken on Wildcat Mountain Preserve near Warrenton, Fauquier County, Va. It was made under the supervision of Dr. Raymond Fosberg by brothers -- Daniel and Richard Peacock, both VHS members living in Fairfax, Va.

The 1,000-acre Preserve consists mainly of dry deciduous slopes. In July-August 1962, ninety-three birds, fifteen mammals, three hundred plants and insects, twenty amphibians and reptiles were preserved, or seen. The herpetofauna list is as follows:

- Northern Dusky Salamander (Desmognathus f. fuscus)
- Virginia Seal Salamander (Desmognathus monticola jeffersoni)
- Red-Spotted Newt (Diemictylus v. viridescens)
- Northern Two-lined Salamander (Eurycea b. bislineata)
- Slimy Salamander (Plethodon g. glutinosus)
- Fowler's Toad (Bufo woodhousei fowleri)
- Northern Spring Peeper (Hyla c. crucifer)
- Bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana)
- Green Frog (Rana clamitans melanota)
- Pickerel Frog (Rana palustris)
- Northern Leopard Frog (Rana p. pipiens)
- Eastern Wood Frog (Rana s. sylvatica)
- Eastern Box Turtle (Terrapene c. carolina)
- N.E. Six-lined Racerunner (Cnemidophorus sexlineatus oligoporus)
- Northern Fence Lizard (Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus)
- Northern Copperhead (Agkistrodon contortrix mokeson)
- Northern Ringneck Snake (Diadophis punctatus edwardsi)
- Black Rat Snake (Elaphe o. obsoleta)
- Eastern Hog-nosed Snake (Heterodon p. platyrhinus)
- Eastern Ribbon Snake (Thamnophis s. sauritus)

1963-1964 OFFICERS OF THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- O. King Goodwin, Newport News, Va., Chairman
- William L. Witt, Arlington, Va., Co-Chairman
- Dr. Phoebe H. Knipling, Arlington, Va., Treasurer
- Franklin J. Tobey, Jr., Rockville, Md., Secretary

Advisers: Dr. J.L. Chamberlain, Randolph Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Va.  
Robert L. Guillaudeu, M.D., McLean, Va. /Lynchburg, Va.

Maryland Section:  
Charles J. Stine, DDS, Towson, Md., Chairman, Md.VHS

VHS PRESIDENT: Roger H. Rageot, Curator, Natural History, Norfolk Museum, Museum Plaza, Norfolk, Virginia.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY COLLECTING NOTES

The reptiles listed below were caught during the summer of 1963 around Chester, Chesterfield Co.,

Va., by Bill Steiner, high school sophomore. Some of these may be candidates for county records.

Northern Black Racer

(Coluber c. constrictor)

Black Rat Snake

(Elaphe o. obsoleta)

Mole Snake

(Lampropeltis c. rhombomaculata)

Eastern Kingsnake

(L. g. getulus)

Northern Water Snake

(Natrix s. sipedon)

Rough Green Snake

(Opheodrys aestivus)

Some of these were of good size. Bill notes that the Black Rat was 67 inches, the Rough Green Snake and the Mole Snake were each about one yard long or slightly greater than a yard in length.

Note: We will check to see what species have been recorded from Chesterfield County and are now in permanent collections. This fact, and not length, is what makes a county "record". (FT)

LET'S KILL THIS MYTH!

Someone starts a rumor that harmless blacksnakes are mating with venomous copperheads and the word goes out: "Watch out for poisonous blacksnakes!" This new myth is on even shakier ground, biologically speaking, than the older story about "pilot" blacksnakes leading poisonous snakes to their dens in the fall. American blacksnakes or other harmless species, and venomous species may, and do, share the same temporary living quarters over the winter months.

Such diverse species, however, can not and do not try to produce offspring. Blacksnakes lay eggs. --- Pit-vipers, as the term "viper" suggests, are bearers of live offspring. (Latin: vipara -- from vivus - "alive", and pario "bear")

BITE KILLS SALT LAKE CURATOR

(AP) The Salt Lake City Zoo's 37-year-old curator, Jerry de Bary died on January 27 after long hours of agony from the bite of the deadly African Puff Adder.

Mr. de Bary was bitten when he suffered a dizzy spell while he was cleaning the snake's cage. Death came after a day and a half of what friends said was excruciating pain.

Serum was flown by U.S. Navy jet from the San Diego, Calif. Zoo. More was ordered from Rhodesian sources, but Mr. de Bary died before it arrived. He may be the only person ever to be bitten by an African Puff Adder in the U.S.

(Details later, if available.)

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COLLECTION DATA SLIP

(detach)

(type or hand-letter)

(spell out month)

Collector's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_

County where found \_\_\_\_\_

Name of nearest P.O. \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest road junction on next

line: U.S. Rt. No. Va. Rt. No. Co. Rd. No. & U.S., Va., (or) Co.

Direction from road junction to capture site: \_\_\_\_\_ Distance: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of day and weather \_\_\_\_\_ A.M., P.M. \_\_\_\_\_

Description of collection site: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity of specimen at time of capture: \_\_\_\_\_

Specimen attached: \_\_\_\_\_

Fluid preservative used: \_\_\_\_\_

Identification: \_\_\_\_\_

SCIENTISTS ISOLATE TOXIC PRINCIPLE OF LETHAL KOKOI FROG VENOM

(from: "The NIH Record")

Scientists from the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases (NIAMD) have isolated the toxic principle of the lethal venom secreted by the skin of a kokoi frog, (Phyllobates bicolor).

The unusually high potency of the poison merits special interest, and determination of its exact chemical nature may lead to new insight into structure-activity relations.

The venom from the Colombian frog is used by the native Cholo tribes and is the strongest of all known venoms. Previous attempts to isolate and identify its toxic principle, which paralyzes and kills within minutes, have been unsuccessful. To learn the chemical nature of the venom, NIAMD staff investigators collected 330 frogs in the Choco jungle in Columbia.

The venom was extracted from the frog skins with aqueous methanol.

The venom was found to be different pharmacologically from curare. Thus far, the investigators have been unable to determine its elemental composition, because only minute quantities of the active principle ingredient are obtainable. Animal studies have shown that the venom causes a multiplicity of lethal events including an irreversible block of neuromuscular transmission. (Inability of a nerve to communicate a motion impulse to a muscle.)

Strong myotropic and convulsive effects indicate a possibility of central nervous system action. There is no known antidote for the kokoi frog venom, which considerably surpasses curare in toxicity.

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VHS ZOO MEETING

Seventy VHS members and friends met at the Reptile House of the National Zoo in Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C. on Saturday, December 28, 1963 from 3 to 6 pm.

Roger H. Rageot, VHS President was present and spoke to the group. He encouraged their careful attention to studies of life histories and habits of amphibians and reptiles.

Members came from Norfolk, Richmond, northern Virginia and Maryland communities.

Two college zoology instructors, Dr. J.I. McClurkin of Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Va.; and Lester E. Harris, Jr. of Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Md., were present. Mr. Robert Hodge, biology teacher, Monroe High, at Fredericksburg, Va. also attended.

The Society's Secretary, Franklin Tobey, introduced the NZP hosts -- Jack DePrato and Lee D. Schmeltz, both VHS members --- who welcomed the assemblage in the name of the Zoo's Director, Dr. T.H. Reed, and his Associate Director, Mr. J. Lear Grimmer, who were out-of-town. We wish, on behalf of the Society, to thank the National Zoo and staff.

Dr. Robert H. McCauley, Jr., author of "Reptiles of Maryland and D.C." scientist-administrator at N.I.H, Bethesda, Md., spoke to the group on his interest in herpetology.

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MEMBERSHIP CARDS: The new, gray membership cards are in!

If you have not received a membership card to which you are entitled write to the Secretary. If you have an out-of-date buff-colored card, write to the Treasurer and enclose a P.O. money order or a check for the amount due at \$1. a year.

(Those who are not members and are not educators suffer the chance of unannounced removal from the Society's mail list.)



ARE THESE BOOKS IN YOUR LIBRARY ?

A CHECKLIST OF NORTH AMERICAN AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES (1953)

by Karl P. Schmidt 6th Ed.

Published by the University of Chicago Press under the sponsorship of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

It lists all species and sub-species of Amphibia and Reptilia in the United States, their type locality, synonymy, and range.

PRICE: \$1.50 (ppd) (Originally \$3½)

COMMON NAMES FOR NORTH AMERICAN AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES (\$1.00)

Plus an index of Common Names.

Prepared by the Committee on Herpetological Common Names of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, (ASIH)

Both of these ASIH publications are a MUST for the Library of a serious herpetologist. ORDER FROM: Dr. N. Bayard Green, Publications Secretary, ASIH, Dep't of Zoology, Marshall Univ. Huntington, West Virginia.

THE REPTILES OF MARYLAND AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (1945)  
by Dr. Robert H. McCauley, Jr.

Published by the author, the entire stock is now handled by the Natural History Society of Maryland. 48 photographs, 46 maps show detailed distribution data. 194pp.

This was a Ph.D. thesis and is now considered one of the most remarkable and authoritative herpetological works on the Atlantic Coast.

PRICE: \$1.25 (Originally \$2.50)

THE SNAKES OF MARYLAND (1936)

by Dr. Howard A. Kelly, H.C. Robertson, and A.W. Davis.

Natural History Society of Maryland. 12 colored plates by R. Deckert; 15 other plates, 33 fig. 103 pp. map. This is a collector's item primarily because of the unique colored paintings, and the inclusion of 5 species definitely not part of the Md. herpetofauna. (See McCauley, 1945: 8-9, 24 for a critical evaluation).

PRICE: \$0.85 (Originally \$1.50)

For these two fine reptile books at bargain prices: Send check or money order to:

Natural History Society of Md.  
2643 No. Charles Street  
Baltimore 18, Maryland

The Southeastern Branch (Richmond Area) of VHS has held at least three meetings to date. Meetings have been held so far at the Pine Camp area owned by the City of Richmond, Va. Dates were: October 13, November 10 and December 1, 1963. Temporary officers are: R.J. Gagnon, Chairman, and Jeff Richmond, Secretary. Those interested should write to: Robert J. Gagnon, 1408 Fullview Avenue, Mechanicsville, Va., 23111.

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(name) (check one)  
(address) ( ) introductory  
(city or P.O.) ( ) renewal  
(county, if Va.) (State) \_\_\_\_\_  
(occupation or title)

PLEASE TYPE OR HAND-LETTER

Dues: \$1.00 a year -- covers membership card, bulletins, and postage. Send money order or check to: Dr. Phoebe H. Knipling (Treasurer, VHS) Note on check "for VHS dues" and mail with this detachable stub to: Mrs. P.H. Knipling, 2623 Military Rd. Arlington, Virginia. Your membership card will be mailed with the next issue of VHS BULLETIN.

WHY A VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY ?

In no other nearby state is there the natural variety of amphibians and reptiles to be found in Va. This is due to the size, location, and variety of climates -- or life zones -- to be found within our state boundaries. These factors combine to provide a great variety of habitats supporting an interestingly diversified herpetofauna.

Also, in no other neighboring state has the native herpetology remained so little known, and unfortunately, gone so long neglected. Its many counties, highlands, and river basins pose a staggering project for an individual herpetologist -- or a whole corps of them -- a project which will require an intensified effort on the part of a sizable group over a long time.

VHS was organized in March, 1958, to fill the need for an information collecting agency capable of bringing scattered individuals together.

The objectives, restated from the VHS Bulletin No. 1, are:

- (1) Scientific study of the state herpetofauna;
- (2) improvement of recording of collection data;
- (3) County surveys and exchange of verified information;
- (4) Broader public understanding in the interest of conservation of reptiles & amphibians;
- (5) Accurate news reporting; and
- (6) Placing needed specimens in permanent scientific collections for study purposes.

With this issue we are trying to reach interested scouts & scouters.



VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN No. 35  
Treasurer: 2623 Military Road, Arlington, Va.  
Secretary: 4706 Tallahassee Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland, 20853  
(Return Postage Guaranteed)