

On Washington's Birthday, 1973, the Union Camp Corp. presented a 49,097-acre portion of the Great Dismal Swamp to the Department of the Interior as a wildlife refuge. The part is entirely within Virginia, although the Great Dismal Swamp extends into North Carolina.

The initial inhabitants--the Nansmond Indians--were scattered before the 1800's. The Great Dismal Swamp is one of the last wilderness areas on the eastern seaboard.

The refuge centers upon Lake Drummond, named for the first colonial Governor of North Carolina.

Around the lake are heavy thickets which include swamp maple and cypress the latter hung with moss giving the inner recesses a mysterious aura.

George Washington called the swamp a "glorious paradise" but set about draining it for possible agricultural use. Remaining from his effort is a 5-mile long canal from the western edge of the swamp to Lake Drummond --Washington's Ditch.

The Great Dismal Swamp once may have covered an area of 2200 square miles or more. Human efforts to convert it to farming land have reduced this to less than 1000 sq.miles.

Lumbering, in the earlier days, removed the swamp's original great stands of cypress and juniper, but its remnants still constitute a wilderness of dark brown water and abundant plant and animal life.

For years, conservation-minded individuals and organizations have felt that the swamp ought to be saved for its outstanding scenic, scientific, and historic worth. Many proposals had been advanced, but until recently, nothing was done about it.

In 1972, the 92d Congress passed an Act requiring the Secretary of the Interior to study the swamp to see what ought to be done. Public hearings brought considerable support for its protection. Then, in mid-January '73 Union Camp, a large wood-products corporation owning nearly 50,000 acres, made public the gift of its

swamp holdings to The Nature Conservancy, Arlington-based land conservation organization (see VaHS B#64). Union Camp indicated that it, and The Nature Conservancy foresaw eventual transfer of the gift to the Department of the Interior for addition to the National Wildlife Refuge system.

Most conservationists are delighted with the turn of events. If all goes well the protected area, one day, may even be larger than at present.

The donated lands, valued at 12.6 million dollars, are in fine condition for Union Camp in past years has managed its holdings in the swamp at an unusual level of corporate care and responsibility.

A unique feature of the lake is its elevation -- 17 feet higher than sea-level and a few below the surrounding terrain.

An obsolete leg of the Intracoastal Waterway (the old Dismal Swamp Canal) passes through the eastern sector of the swamp. It's provided with locks at the ends and operates on Lake Drummond water.

 PORTION OF THE GREAT DISMAL SWAMP
 TO BECOME A NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE!

(continued on next page)

The VaHS BULLETIN and PROGRAMS are a non-profit, science-information activity.

VaHS BULLETIN is a newsletter appearing at least six times a year. Its pages are open for articles or comment on topics related to Virginian herpetology. The principal activity is the state survey of reptiles and amphibians. (Revised list available soon.)

VaHS BULLETIN is sent, gratis, to Virginia's university and college biology, zoology, and natural science departments.. Science and biology teachers (high school or junior-high)--may receive the VaHS BULLETIN (with full membership) at \$1 a year; request on school letter head preferred.

GREAT DISMAL SWAMP (continued)

Operation of either lock drains 3 million gallons of water from the lake. Drummond water is the swamp's life-blood. It has been suggested that short boat railways, used at marinas around the U.S. be installed at the locks to lift or lower boats at the end of the canal. These would accommodate boating parties for recreation. No intra-coastal traffic goes that route. The importance of the Dismal Swamp Canal dwindled after the shorter Chesapeake and Albemarle canal was completed.

While the swamp has been over-collected by amateur and professional herpetologists, there are still a few species expected there which may have eluded collectors. There are two or three species for which "sightings" or literature records exist, but which lack the proper back-up of a good color photo, or the traditional preserved specimen in an established scientific collection (known to VaHS).

If you have knowledge of additional specimens that have been collected in the Great Dismal Swamp, please pass along such information to VaHS. Any data should include the depository name or photo.

CHECKLIST OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF THE GREAT DISMAL SWAMP

List (by standard common name) of the reptiles and amphibians recorded for the Virginia portion of the Great Dismal Swamp.

Salamanders:

- Marbled Salamander
Two-toed Amphiuma
Southern Dusky Salamander
Red-backed Salamander
Slimy Salamander
Greater Siren
Many-lined Salamander

Frogs and Toads:

- Southern Cricket Frog
Southern Toad
Fowler's Toad
Oak Toad
E. Narrow-mouthed Frog
Green Treefrog
Northern Spring Peeper
Pine Woods Treefrog
Squirrel Treefrog
Gray Treefrog
Brimley's Chorus Frog
Bullfrog
Northern Green Frog
Pickerel Frog
Southern Leopard Frog
Carpenter Frog
Eastern Spadefoot

Turtles: (see VaHS B#57-58, 1968)

- Common Snapping Turtle
Eastern Painted Turtle
Spotted Turtle
Eastern Mud Turtle
Stinkpot
Eastern Box Turtle

Lizards: (see VaHS B#67-68, 1972)

- Green Anole
Five-lined Skink
S.E. Five-lined Skink
Broad-headed Skink
Ground Skink
E. Slender Glass Lizard
Northern Fence Lizard

Snakes: +(poisonous)

- Northern Copperhead +
Eastern Cottonmouth +
Canebrake Rattlesnake +
Eastern Worm Snake
Northern Black Racer
Southern Ringneck Snake
Black Rat Snake
Eastern Mud Snake
E. Hog-nosed Snake
Eastern Kingsnake
Coastal Plain Milk Snake X Scarlet King Snake (intergradation)
Red-bellied Water Snake
Northern Water Snake
Brown Water Snake
Rough Green Snake
Northern Brown Snake
Northern Red-bellied S.
Eastern Ribbon Snake
Eastern Garter Snake
Eastern Earth Snake

EASTERN SEABOARD HERPETO-
 LOGICAL LEAGUE MEETING
 AT STATEN ISLAND ZOO

About 250 from the east coast attended the second Eastern Seaboard Herpetological League meeting at the Staten Island, (N.Y.) Zoo on March 3, 1973. The first meeting was at the Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., on 29th October 1972.

VaHS editor regrets that the last bulletin was late in getting the announcement to all members in time for them to make the event. The next meeting, to offset the past short notice, is in Philadelphia, Pa., on 27 October 1973. Mark your calendar!

Carl Kauffeld, Director of the Staten Island Zoo, who has been recovering from a severe illness, was unable to be present to greet the assemblage. Mr. David Hulmes, President of the N.Y. Herpetological Society, opened the meeting and introduced Mr. Bob Zappalorti of the Staten Island Zoo staff who read a letter of greetings from Carl Kauffeld. Mr. I. Gilboa and Dr. Herndon Dowling of the Herpetological (HISS) Information Search System introduced the new HISS publications -- HISS: NEWS, HISS: TITLES and Herpetologists' Yearbook. (See order form.)

Dr. J. D. Anderson of Rutgers -- the State University (New Brunswick, and Newark, N.J.) presented an "Outline for Study of the Bog Turtle" which could be adapted to cover other varieties of amphibians or reptiles. Study is made over the species' range. At issue are such questions as "What limits a species?" He provided a field study outline which VaHS will present in this issue of VaHS BULLETIN.

Dr. Lester E. Harris, Jr. sole VaHS member on the program (see VaHS-B#70), gave a most fascinating color slide talk on his experiences in the Galapagos Islands. He, and 18 biology students, will visit the Galapagos Islands in late spring and return in time to be in session at the Columbia Union Biological Station, Head Waters, Va., in summer, 1973.

See bottom of page 10, VaHS BULLETIN No. 70, for Staten Island Zoo program.

Don't forget the next ESHL meeting in Philadelphia on 27 October '73.

Others on the program presented excellent talks.

Among these was the color slide presentation on the "Western Terrestrial and Aquatic Gartersnakes" by Mr. William and Mrs. Donna Marvel -- on the practice of gartersnakes (Thamnophis) of taking the place of water snakes (Natrix) where the representatives of that genus are absent, as over much of the West.

To:
 CARL KAUFFELD, DIRECTOR
 and CURATOR of REPTILES,
 THE STATEN ISLAND ZOO..

We, the members of the Va Herpetological Society, wish to thank you and the staff for the opportunity to meet with other state societies of the eastern seaboard at the excellent facilities of the Staten Island Zoo. This was a great educational opportunity and those of us who were able to make the trip were delighted with every aspect of the visit.

We wish you the best and hope that you are now feeling better.

On behalf of the VaHS membership

Franklin J. Tobey, Jr.
 VaHS Secretary

ESHL MEETING NOTES continued

SINGLE SPECIES STUDY:

Dr. James D. Anderson, Rutgers University, New Jersey..

A study, in depth, of a single species (e.g., the Spotted, Wood, or Bog turtle) is done over the entire species range. Questions to be answered relate to the optimal (or best) habitat and the normal habitat. A study of this type should be able to answer: "What LIMITS the species?" He (Dr. Anderson) gave an outline for a detailed field study which is well worth carrying here:

- (A) LIFE HISTORY (Basic Events)
 - (1) Mating season: when ?
 - (2) Eggs deposited: when?
 - (3) Nesting sites: where?
 - (4) Incubation period ?
 - (5) Dispersal of young
 - (6) Growth of juveniles
 - (7) When is sexual maturity reached ?
 - (8) hibernation sites and times ?
 - (9) life-span (length) ?
- (B) FIELD WORK ON HABITAT
 - (1) Depth and size of body of water.
 - (2) Characteristics of substrate: muddy ?
 - (3) does the habitat vary seasonally ?
 - (4) vegetation: canopy or open ? structure of plant community, etc.

- (5) water chemistry: pH & carbonates, change in enrichment ?
- (6) sphagnum bogs (these are not always acid) may be alkaline or even neutral.
- (7) temperature (ambient) thermometers are very cheap, record water & air temperatures, etc.
- (8) basking: (thermoregulation)
- (9) eating habits: from observation, not from stomach contents.

(C) POPULATION ECOLOGY

- (1) Population size, area How many ? Density ? (number per sq. feet ? sq. yard ? sq. mile ?)
- (2) Age distribution (no. or percentage of: juveniles, adults.
- (3) Sex ratio: male/female all breeding ?
- (4) When do animals begin mating ? (size)
- (5) Size of egg clutch ?
- (6) frequency of mating or breeding
- (7) population changes: fewer or more ?

(D) PLANNING FOR SPECIES THAT ARE ENDANGERED:

- (1) Number of acres for what number of individuals for reserve ?
- (2) release in known area dangers implicit in reintroduction.
- (3) creating habitats

- (4) removal of commercial threat (food or pet-collecting) through legislation.

Advice to all VaHS members is to:

Observe and Record any information on all aspects of animal activity: nature, temperature, etc. Communicate the information in an orderly flow.

VaHS THANKS STATEN ISLAND ZOO and N.Y. HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR A FINE MEETING on 3 MARCH 1973

To: Mr. David Hulmes, Chairman, New York Herpetological Soc.

The members of VaHS wish to thank you for your sponsorship of the Staten Island ESHL meeting. Six members of the Virginia Herpetological Society were present and greatly enjoyed the fellowship, and the smorgasbord at the late evening break as well as the refreshments and coffee during session. The program was excellent and provided many ideas for all who are interested in the science of herpetology. Our thanks!

On behalf of the VaHS membership:
Franklin J. Tobey, Jr.
Secretary

LETTERS, IDEAS, COMMENTS:

" I am doing an undergraduate research problem on the Geographical Variation of Elaphe g. guttata on the Coastal Plain. This project is under the supervision of the Biology Department of Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond. I would like to request, by this letter, any preserved specimens of the Corn Snake (E. guttata) from the eastern half of any of the southeastern (Md. to Fla.) states, from any members or friends of VHS who would cooperate. I am willing to pay mailing costs to and from my home (address below). The loan duration would be about 2 weeks.

It is imperative that the specimen be accompanied by a slip giving county, locality, and state (and habitat, if known).

Any correspondence regarding this species welcomed.

Is it possible to borrow any preserved specimens of the corn snake from the Virginia Coastal Plain? Do any exist?

(Mr.) Joseph C. Mitchell
3200 Stuart Avenue (# 2)
Richmond, Va. 23221
(703) 358-7810

Your cooperation in this VCU biology project is encouraged by VaHS. FT

2 April 1973

I am a biology teacher at Cumberland Valley High School and a part-time graduate student at Shippensburg State College. I have two areas in which I devote all my spare time: locating and banding hawks and owls, and working with amphibians. Presently, I am trying to locate and photograph all the amphibians that are found in Pennsylvania. In addition, I am trying to gather information about all the eastern hylids.

Dr. Roger Conant has been extremely helpful. I have made several visits to the Pine Barrens to photograph H. andersoni and R. pipiens. This summer, I plan to go to North Carolina to study H. gratiosa, H. femoralis, H. squirella, and H. andersoni.

Presently, I am trying to round up salamanders to photograph. I wrote to Dr. Conant about locating Pseudotriton m. montanus, Eastern Mud Salamander, and he suggested I write you. I live in the area where Baird (1849) first described it, but I can say with some certainty that it cannot be found here, or if it is here, it is so localized that it has been overlooked by everyone. (continued) ...

If you, or one of the VaHS members could locate one so that I could photograph it and measure it, I would be most appreciative and would return it. If I can be of any help in return please let me know.

Sincerely,

(Mr.) Richard Peiffer
Cumberland Valley School
District R.D. # 1,
Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055

861 Carlwynne Manor (home)
Carlisle, Penna. 17013

23 March 1973

To All VaHS Members:

I wish to express my mixed feelings about taking an "overseas assignment." I am enthusiastic about future productive activities at the Japan Snake Institute (Tokyo) which seems, just now, to offer a unique opportunity in my line. However, because interests, pleasant associations, and friendships, I enjoy the Virginia (eastern U.S.) area. I will continue to share interests with the members of the Virginia Herpetological Society. Regards to all!

(Dr.) W. Leslie Burger*

*Dr. Burger was president of VaHS from 1960 through 1964 and was a co-founder.

COMMENTS ON "LIZARDS OF VIRGINIA" VaHS B#67-68:

To VaHS: (8 June 1972)

"The VaHS special bulletin (#67-68) came today and I was very pleased to receive it. The purpose of this quickly written note is to request a back issue (VaHS B#37-38) "SNAKES of VIRGINIA". I was not a member of VaHS when it was published."

(Editor's note: The item is out-of-stock; revision is pending --(late 1973?).

"... there are no Broad headed Skink records for FAIRFAX county. I have seen one in two different locations in McLean, Va. Both were at least 8" in length, uniform olive brown ... (no darker lateral stripes as in the 5-lined) except for the head which was brilliant orange-red and was very wide. One was seen on a steep wooded hillside sunning on a fallen log. When approached, it ran up the nearest tree far out of reach."

"The other was about 3 ft. off the ground on a living tree trunk, at the base of a small hill near a gravel path. This lizard was carefully stalked

(continued at top of the next column . . .)

but was finally disturbed enough so that it ran up the tree to about 20 feet above ground. From this precarious perch, he cocked his head and watched me for about 15 minutes. I came back about an hour later and he was still in the same position."

"I noticed that his behavior is different from the five-lined skinks (which I have seen in the same area). These, when disturbed, run for the nearest cover. I will collect a specimen for a new locality record."

(Mr.) Stephen Behme, VaHS 6802 Lemon Road McLean, VA 22101

14 June 1972

"... I think 'LIZARDS of VIRGINIA' is Great! "

(Mr.) John H. McLaughlin Chief, Law Enforcement Division CGIF P.O. Box 11,104 Richmond, VA 23230

Your comments are sought for use in VaHS VULLETTIN.

The editor is currently gathering items for an ERRATA (corrections) page to be included in the 1973 mailing of VaHS B# 67-68 to new members, naturalists, and others who did not get a copy in June 1972. FJT

GROUND SKINK DISTRIBUTION

"Inclusion of western Va., and the entire southern Appalachians in the range of the Ground Skink (Lygosoma laterale) is unwarranted. The species does not get into the mountains at all. My record (1945) for ALLEGHANY county, Va., was based on young specimens of the Coal Skink (E. anthracinus); subsequently, I have seen laterale in ALBEMARLE and LOUISA on the Piedmont, and of course, it is common on the Coastal Plain. I know of no records (of laterale) west of the Blue Ridge."

(Dr.) Richard L. Hoffman Department of Biology Radford College, Radford, Virginia 24141

5 May 1973

".. 'Lizards of Virginia' Bulletin promises to be every bit as helpful as 'Turtles of Virginia' - - which I have found to be of great value. ... "

(Mrs.) Mary L. Anderson 1016 Grove Lane Roanoke, Va. 24012

SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO:

Editor, VaHS BULLETIN 4706 Tallahassee Ave. Rockville, MD 20853

COLLECTING NOTES FOR PRINCE GEORGE and SUSSEX COUNTIES, VIRGINIA: - - -

Specimens from the Va. counties indicated were deposited in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution) as follows:

Brimley's Chorus Frog (Pseudacris brimleyi) and Upland Chorus Frog (P. t. feriarum) were collected within a few miles radius of Disputanta, PRINCE GEORGE county, Va., on 3 March 1973, by Dr. George R. Zug, assistant curator of the Division of Reptiles and Amphibians. (No USNM numbers have been assigned.) In the same localities, spring peeper and southern leopard frog choruses were heard. The American Toad was present but there were none calling. A bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana) was collected in this area on April 25, 1973 by C.A. Ross, USNM.

A red-bellied watersnake (Matrix erythrogaster) was collected near Stony Creek, SUSSEX county, Va., on the floodplain of the Nottoway River by (Mr.) C. A. Ross on 25 April 1973, as a DOR.

A bullfrog, Brimley's and Upland chorus frogs, and a Fowler's Toad (Bufo woodhousei fowleri) were taken

COLLECTING NOTES

within a radius of a few miles of Jarratt, SUSSEX county, Va., on 25 April 1973, by Mr. C.A. Ross, and Jon R. and G. R. Zug. An adult male Spotted Turtle (Clemmys guttata) was captured and examined. It was released at the site. Spring peepers and Brimley's Chorus Frogs were heard calling in the area.

"SNAKES of AMELIA COUNTY" prepared by (Mr.) Mike Clifford, VaHS, extension agent, Amelia Court House, Va., has been issued by the Cooperative Extension Service, VPI and State University, Blacksburg, Va. for distribution within the county. It is a four page folder with a stiff cover. It carries facts and some general descriptions and drawings of the 20 varieties native to AMELIA county. Clifford deserves congratulations for his work in support of the Va. Herpetological Survey. Other counties could afford to launch an effort of this quality.

"We prepared this booklet for farmers, scouts, 4-H-ers, and housewives in the county who phone in about snakes in their barns, basements, and gardens."

(Mr.) Michael J. Clifford
P.O. Box 235,
Amelia, Va. 23002

COLLECTING NOTES FOR CAROLINE COUNTY, VIRGINIA
CAROLINE COUNTY MATERIAL
NOW AT VA. COMMONWEALTH U.

Added to the CAROLINE county material, just as it was being turned over to the Biology Department of the Virginia Commonwealth University, was an eastern ribbon snake (T.s. sauritus) the first county record for that species. It was collected by a student, Garry Gray, who brought the specimen to Mrs. Dale Brittle. Garry prepared a written report for use in VaHS BULLETIN:

"This snake was found around 3:30 p.m. March 10, 1973, in CAROLINE county in the small town of Milford. It was found on the edge of a swamp and beaver dam on my father's farm. The power company had cut some trees down and piled up the wood. Due to the heat given off by the wood, the snake had gotten under it --the temperature was around 50 to 60° F. The snake was very active and quick to strike at me."

(Mr.) Garry Gray
Milford,
(Caroline County)
Virginia

SEND IN YOUR COLLECTING NOTES FOR USE IN VaHS B!

25 April 1973

On April 15, 1973 around 1:00 p.m., my wife and I found what appeared to be a Blue-spotted Salamander (Ambystoma laterale). We were on the farm of friends. Temperature was about 60°F. The salamander was under a log and was inactive and sluggish.

It was at least 6 inches long and had a dark blue ground color, with pale blue or whitish spots on its sides. Its tail was all there, but it did have a piece missing near the base. Yet, it didn't look like it had lost its tail and regrown one. I did not keep it since I did not know how many others were around, but I hope to check the area enough to get an idea. I read the article on these salamanders (ambystomids) in VaHS BULLETIN No. 66, and I am not completely sure that the salamander I found was not really a Jefferson Salamander (A. jeffersonianum). Most books describe them both as being much the same, so I would appreciate any information on these salamanders and their ranges around Lynchburg and surrounding areas.

(Mr.) Brian Taylor, VaHS
205A Wyndale Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24501

SEND IN YOUR COMMENTS!

LETTERS, COMMENTS, IDEAS:

"AMPHIBIANS and REPTILES of the GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK" by James E. Huheey, Univ. of Maryland and Arthur Stupka, park naturalist. Copyright 1967, Univ. of Tennessee Press, Knoxville paperback: 98 pages \$ 3.

This is the third in a series of studies of the natural history of the Great Smoky Mountains by Arthur Stupka. His notes on the Birds of Great Smoky Mountains National Park was published in '63 and Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines of GSMNP was published in 1964. (Univ. of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tenn. 37916)

It has a brief writeup on each species with locations where specimens were found and indicates the relative abundance or scarcity of each species and a little natural history. The black and white photos by Isabelle Hunt Conant are good, naturally.

While its title seems to indicate that it is a field guide of sorts, and could be used for identification, it might have been preceded by "Some Notes on the etc." It is interesting and worth the price -- \$3.00.

(Mr.) Scott Rae, VaHS
317 Adahi Road SE
Vienna, VA 22180

LETTERS AND IDEAS SOUGHT

SPEAKING OF LIZARDS OBSERVATIONS ON GROUND SKINKS (LYGOSOMA) IN PHSB

Robert G. Sprackland, Jr., writing in the Philadelphia Herpetological Society Bulletin (Vol. 20 1972 pp.23-24) described otter-like movements in Ground Skinks (Lygosoma laterale). He said: The "movements are quick and jerky. When foraging, all four legs are employed; however, when exploring or excavating under rocks the hind legs are folded back along the tail and are not used. In groups, these skinks, in movement and action, recall a group of playful otters. The lizards delight (?) in sliding down the hills on their bellies. Sliding activity was observed on three occasions, in the late afternoon. ... The slide looked perfectly otter-like, as the limbs were not employed at all. ... The dirt of the hill is firm, containing traces of iron oxide and clay, having a few small gullies along the side caused by erosion. ..."

PHS BULLETIN
1555 Pratt Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19124

(Mr.) Malvin L. Skaroff
PHS Secretary and
ESHL Co-ordinator

Don't forget the next Eastern Seaboard Herpetological League meeting, October 27, 1973 in PHILADELPHIA, PA. ...

WRONG ADDRESSES SLOW THE MAIL DUPLICATES ARE COSTLY

Help keep the VaHS Secretary informed of your correct address. If you are moving, or will have a different address this summer, please let him know what it is. If you have received duplicate mailings pass one copy of VaHS BULLETIN along to an interested Virginia resident.

New address: () _____ (street)
Summer only: () _____ (Box #)
(check one) / _____ (P.O. and R.F.D.#)

(name) - _____

OTHER PUBLICATIONS ON THE GREAT DISMAL SWAMP STORY

ATLANTIC NATURALIST

Spring issue, 1972 pp. 60-64 feature article on "Lake Drummond - Heart of Great Dismal Swamp" by Dr. Harold G. Marshall, chairman, Biology Dep't., Old Dominion University Norfolk, Virginia 23508.

Dr. Marshall mentions a 13-month study of the Great Dismal Swamp which was completed in July '71 by the biology department, Old Dominion University.

Atlantic Naturalist is the publication of the Audubon Naturalist Soc. of the Central Atlantic States; Washington, D.C.

LIVING WILDERNESS

Winter 1970-71 pp. 29-33 carries an article called "The Dismal Swamp --- Its Natural History" by Dr. David E. Delzell, professor of biology at Old Dominion University. Dr. Delzell is a vertebrate ecologist who has been at Old Dominion University for a dozen or more years.

Dr. Delzell notes that "Amphibians abound, particularly frogs. In early spring, the vocalization is intense. ... Drainage has reduced the number of individuals but not that of the species. ..." which he estimated at about 20.

This is down somewhat (p. 2) from the historical record of 26, but VaHS may have included some on the periphery of the Dismal Swamp which Dr. Delzell did not include. Also, there are forms once found which may be rare or absent from the swamp today (see lists on page 2).

Dr. Delzell expressed a concern that is shared by others in VaHS, that the canebrake rattlesnake "probably has suffered the greatest destruction, because it was encountered more often as land was cleared for farms. ..."

"Dismal Swamp - Flora and Fauna" by Brooke Meanley, research biologist at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD. pp. 34-37, follows.

"The Dismal Swamp Fish" by Mr. Roger H. deRageot, past president of VaHS, appears in the same issue at pp. 37-39 and contains a great number of little known facts about the GDS.

THE VIRGINIA OUTDOORS

Vol. 3, No. 3, April 1973 newsletter of the Va. Commission of Outdoor Recreation. Much of this issue is devoted to the Great Dismal Swamp and its history and features.

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE magazine, over the years, has carried many different articles on every aspect of the Dismal Swamp including a fine series on the swamp through the four seasons of the year. A library file of these magazines would provide excellent background on the natural history of the Great Dismal Swamp.

COMING IN FUTURE EDITIONS OF THE VaHS BULLETIN:

Features on:

- Amphibians of LEE county, VA.
Reptiles of LEE county, VA.

Photography for the Va. herpetologist.

LIVING WILDERNESS is the magazine of The Wilderness Society, 729 Fifteenth St. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED CORRECT ADDRESS REQUESTED is an expensive way to KEEP IN TOUCH with members and we hope you will take the initiative. KEEP VaHS posted on changes in YOUR ADDRESS with the seasons. (see form, bottom of p. 8).

COLLECTING NOTES
FROM NINE YEARS AGO

It was about 7 a.m. when Tom Sparhawk, Doug Elliot, and I got underway on a weekend collecting trip to the Great Dismal Swamp the temperature was in the upper 70's. Heading south on U.S. #17 along the old leg of the Intra-coastal Waterway, we saw a DOR black racer. At 9 we borrowed a rowboat to get across the canal. On the other side, we began turning over some pieces of tin near an old shack. Under one of the first pieces was a toad. Doug and I lifted some heavy tin and a Broad-headed Skink (Eumeces laticeps) ran out, which Doug grabbed. Tom uncovered a big Black Racer that was preparing to shed its skin.

We spread out and headed in the direction of Lake Drummond, along the feeder ditch, a large canal connecting the lake and the waterway along US# 17. Along a small ditch, I discovered a Black Racer just finishing a Ringneck Snake (Diadophis punctatus). He swallowed it quickly and I captured him. We walked down the dirt road along the ditch toward Lake Drummond.

Several small lizards scattered through the brush now and again, but they were too fast to catch or identify. The only other specimens collected that day were both color phases (red-backed and lead-backed) of the Red-backed Salamander (P. c. cinereus).

I failed to capture a skink, probably the Five-lined (Eumeces fasciatus) and at 4 p.m. we left the Dismal Swamp and turned toward home ending a most interesting and productive weekend. The trip was made May 9-10, 1964. (First carried in the PHS BULLETIN Vol.12, 1964).

Excerpted for use in VaHS BULLETIN by permission of the author:

(Mr.) Ken Nemuras (MdHS)
7972 Catherine Avenue
Pasadena, Maryland
21122

"Estuary --- What a Crazy Place!" by Lee D. Salber
One copy free on request to: National Wildlife Federation 1412 Sixteenth St. NW Washington, D.C. 20036

NOTICE TO NEW READERS:

VaHS BULLETIN, a newsletter, is the only publication of the Virginia Herpetological Society. Its pages are open for articles or comments on Va. reptiles & amphibians.

We recommend VaHS membership for those residents of Va. who are more than casually interested in the herpetology of Va. A supporter of the program contributes \$2 yearly (\$3 if out-of-state). The principal activity is the state survey of amphibians and reptiles.

VaHS is not a club or a 'hobby' group. It exists to fill the need for an easy exchange of useful information on the lower vertebrate animals found in the state. VaHS promotes individual or small team efforts, in the open field or in the biology laboratory, to learn more about native amphibians or reptiles with adequate scientific or technical supervision. A factsheet on the VaHS is being prepared for early issuance.

Membership cards for 1972-1973 have not yet been printed and distributed..

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