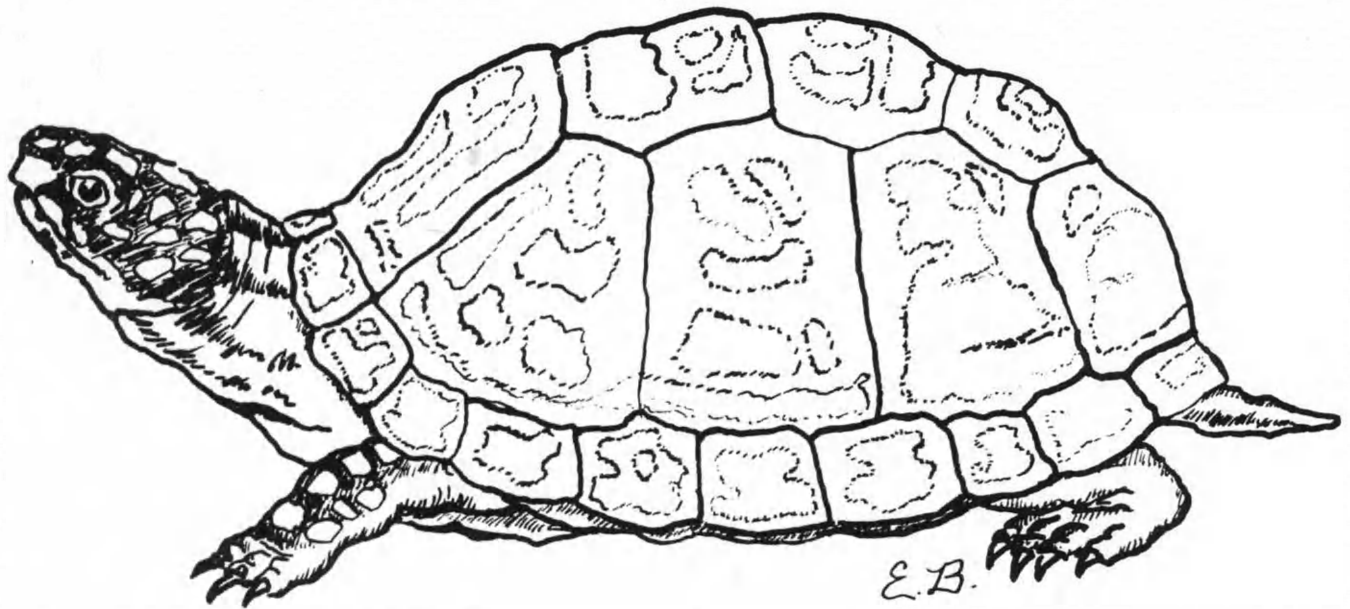


CATESBEIANA



BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 4

1984

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C A T E S B E I A N A

Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society

VOLUME 4

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BULLETIN INFORMATION

Catesbeiana, the Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society, is issued twice a year by the Virginia Herpetological Society. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles. Dues are \$5.00 per volume year for adults, \$3.00 for individuals under the age of 18, and \$7.50 for families. Membership includes one subscription to Catesbeiana. Dues are payable to: Ben Greishaw, VaHS Treasurer, 7622 Hollins Road, Richmond, VA 23229. Make checks payable to the Virginia Herpetological Society. Herpetological societies desiring exchange of publications should send copies of their publications to: Dr. Joseph C. Mitchell, Dept. of Biology, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173. Any materials for publication in Catesbeiana should also be sent to Dr. Mitchell.

MEETING NOTICE

The Spring meeting of the VaHS will be on April 14, 1984 at the home of Bob Bader in Charlotte County. See pages 15 and 21 for additional information.

Cover: Terrapene carolina by Eve Bader.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Catesbeiana replaced the formal name of the Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society in 1981 as the publication of the VaHS to reflect the changes in the society's structure. Although the format of the bulletin changed dramatically, its adherence to the central theme of the science of Virginia herpetology has remained firm. Beginning with the editorship of F. J. Tobey (1958-1980) and continuing with D. A. Merkle (1981-1982), the bulletin has published with few exceptions, only scientific information and news on the herps of Virginia. We will maintain that tradition. During several meetings in 1980 and 1981, brief discussions addressed this point. It was agreed that Catesbeiana will publish articles pertaining to herpetology outside of Virginia only if insufficient material is on hand to complete an average size issue (about 18 pages). In this vein, articles pertaining to species found in Virginia will take precedence over those which do not. Rarely, if ever, will articles be reprinted in Catesbeiana after they have been published elsewhere. If someone is unsure whether something he/she has is appropriate, he or she should contact the editor.

Authors may wish to submit articles in final copy-ready form. To maintain consistency, the type is IBM Letter Gothic (with 12 characters per inch), using a carbon ribbon; all margins are 1 inch, leaving the pages unnumbered. Consult the style of articles in this issue for additional information. Please be advised, however, that articles are usually reviewed by at least one officer (past or present) of the VaHS in addition to the editor. All changes must be approved by the author before publication. Thus, manuscripts, in final copy or not, should be submitted well in advance of March or September.

Reprints of articles are not available to authors, however, authors may reprint articles themselves to meet professional needs.

Herpetological artwork is welcomed. If the artwork has been published elsewhere, we will need to obtain copyright before we can use it in an issue. We need drawings and encourage members to send us anything appropriate, especially their own work.

THE HERPETOFAUNA OF SOUTH ISLE PLANTATION

Robert N. Bader
Route 2, Box 78, Brookneal, Virginia 24528

South Isle Plantation (SIP) is a 1,300 acre farm located in the south-central Piedmont of Virginia. The farm is in the extreme southwest corner of Charlotte County. The southern border of the farm is the Roanoke River, locally known as the Staunton River.

The habitat of SIP varies from rolling hills to the river low grounds which contain three large beaver swamps, as well as 400 acres of pasture land. There are several hundred acres of hardwoods, pine woods, and hardwood and pine mixed. Five permanent streams, several farm ponds, and an eleven acre lake assure plenty of water for a wide variety of flora and fauna.

Due to the varied habitat, there is an abundance of amphibians and reptiles on SIP. There are 12 species of salamanders, 13 species of frogs, 6 species of lizards, 18 of snakes, and 6 of turtles. The following amphibians and reptiles have been collected within a one mile radius of SIP during the last six years.

<u>Ambystoma maculatum</u>	Spotted Salamander
<u>Ambystoma opacum</u>	Marbled Salamander
<u>Ambystoma talpoideum</u>	Mole Salamander
<u>Desmognathus f. fuscus</u>	Northern Dusky Salamander
<u>Eurycea b. bislineata</u>	Northern Two-lined Salamander
<u>Eurycea longicauda guttolineata</u>	Three-lined Salamander
<u>Hemidactylium scutatum</u>	Four-toed Salamander
<u>Notophthalmus v. viridescens</u>	Red-spotted Newt
<u>Plethodon cinereus</u>	Redback Salamander
<u>Plethodon g. glutinosus</u>	Slimy Salamander
<u>Pseudotriton m. montanus</u>	Eastern Mud Salamander
<u>Pseudotriton r. ruber</u>	Northern Red Salamander
<u>Acris c. crepitans</u>	Northern Cricket Frog
<u>Bufo a. americanus</u>	Eastern American Toad
<u>Bufo woodhousii fowleri</u>	Fowler's Toad
<u>Gastrophryne carolinensis</u>	Eastern Narrowmouth Toad
<u>Hyla c. crucifer</u>	Northern Spring Peeper
<u>Hyla chrysoscelis</u>	Cope's Gray Treefrog
<u>Hyla versicolor</u>	Gray Treefrog
<u>Pseudacris triseriata feriarum</u>	Upland Chorus Frog
<u>Rana catesbeiana</u>	Bullfrog
<u>Rana clamitans melanota</u>	Green Frog
<u>Rana palustris</u>	Pickereel Frog
<u>Rana sphenoccephala</u>	Southern Leopard Frog
<u>Cnemidophorus s. sexlineatus</u>	Six-lined Racerunner
<u>Eumeces fasciatus</u>	Five-lined Skink
<u>Eumeces inexpectatus</u>	Southeastern Five-lined Skink
<u>Eumeces laticeps</u>	Broadhead Skink
<u>Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus</u>	Northern Fence Lizard
<u>Scincella lateralis</u>	Ground Skink

<u>Agkistrodon contortrix mokeson</u>	Northern Copperhead
<u>Carpophis a. amoenus</u>	Eastern Worm Snake
<u>Coluber c. constrictor</u>	Northern Black Racer
<u>Diadophis punctatus edwardsii</u>	Northern Ringneck Snake
<u>Elaphe g. guttata</u>	Corn Snake
<u>Elaphe o. obsoleta</u>	Black Rat Snake
<u>Heterodon platyrhinos</u>	Eastern Hognose Snake
<u>Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata</u>	Mole Kingsnake
<u>Lampropeltis g. getulus</u>	Eastern Kingsnake
<u>Lampropeltis t. triangulum</u>	Eastern Milk Snake
<u>Nerodia s. sipedon</u>	Northern Water Snake
<u>Opheodrys aestivus</u>	Rough Green Snake
<u>Opheodrys v. vernalis</u>	Eastern Smooth Green Snake
<u>Storeria d. dekayi</u>	Northern Brown Snake
<u>Storeria o. occipitamaculata</u>	Northern Redbelly Snake
<u>Thamnophis s. sauritus</u>	Eastern Ribbon Snake
<u>Thamnophis s. sirtalis</u>	Eastern Garter Snake
<u>Virginia v. valeriae</u>	Eastern Earth Snake
<u>Chelydra s. serpentina</u>	Common Snapping Turtle
<u>Chrysemys p. picta</u>	Eastern Painted Turtle
<u>Kinosternon s. subrubrum</u>	Eastern Mud Turtle
<u>Pseudemys c. concinna</u>	Eastern River Cooter
<u>Sternotherus odoratus</u>	Stinkpot
<u>Terrapene c. carolina</u>	Eastern Box Turtle

* * * * *

This space would have been nicely filled
with a drawing, but none were sent in.

A FOURTH LOCALITY FOR THE SHOVELNOSE SALAMANDER,
LEUROGNATHUS MARMORATUS, IN VIRGINIA

Christopher A. Pague and Joseph C. Mitchell

Dept. of Biological Sciences, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23504
Dept. of Biology, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173

The shovelnose salamander, Leurognathus marmoratus, has a discontinuous distribution within the southern Appalachian Mountains, reaching its northern limits in southwestern Virginia (Conant, 1975). The present distribution of this species in Virginia is based on three reported localities in Floyd and Smyth Counties (Hoffman and Hoffman, 1956; Anonymous, 1975; Gourley, 1982). Apparently, in none of these localities is this animal abundant (Gourley, 1982). The Floyd County locality has not been confirmed since the original report (Hoffman, 1979). A recent discovery of a previously unknown specimen suggests this species is more widely distributed than presently recognized.

During a recent examination of Virginia amphibians and reptiles in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), we found a Leurognathus marmoratus catalogued as Desmognathus quadramaculatus (Blackbelly Salamander). The specimen is an adult female (AMNH A63728), 57 mm snout-vent length, collected on 9 April 1958 in Washington Co., VA, 2 mi. SE of Damascus along Va. Rt. 91 by B. H. Brattstrom, B. Keis, and A. Sturn. The locality indicates that the specimen was found in Laurel Creek, which parallels Rt. 91 south of Whitetop Mountain. The other localities near Whitetop Mountain are in the Laurel Creek drainage, but form another tributary (Big Branch) on the north slope of Whitetop Mountain.

In preservation the specimen has the following meristic features: venter-lighter than dorsum and mostly uniform brown with a few pale spots, under the chin is more pale with light mottling, laterally- a distinct row of pale spots between limbs, dorsally- mottled with two rows of pale spots (probably vestiges of a lateral line system), there are 10-11 spots between the limbs, tail large and heavily keeled, dorsal spots continue into about 30-40% of tail, head somewhat spatulate with preocular region more pale than remainder of head, 14 costal grooves, internal choanae are closed. The pattern is consistent with L. marmoratus taken from North Carolina. The size of the AMNH specimen is in the lower third of the size range reported by Gourley (1982).

The apparent rareness of Leurognathus in Virginia contrasts with more southern populations where densities of 5.4/sq. yd. were reported (Martof, 1962). If population densities are in fact low in Virginia, it may be a result of limiting factors at the periphery of the species' range. Such populations may be extremely sensitive to environmental fluctuation or alteration - natural or man-induced. Leurognathus marmoratus has been categorized as a species of "Special Concern" in Virginia (Hoffman, 1979).

The continued presence of a viable population of L. marmoratus in Laurel Creek awaits confirmation. Much may have occurred in the intervening 26 years since the collection to alter Laurel Creek and/or the population of L. marmoratus. No other specimens have been reported from this locality during other surveys in the area (Hoffman, 1979; Gourley, 1982).

Acknowledgments: Our trip to the AMNH was supported by a Non-Game Program grant from the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. The staff of the Dept. of Herpetology at the AMNH kindly permitted examination of specimens.

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* * * * *

This space would also have been nicely filled
with a herp drawing.

HERPETOLOGICAL PLACE NAMES IN VIRGINIA

Joseph C. Mitchell and Wendy H. Mitchell
Department of Biology
University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173

Reptiles and amphibians have played important roles in American culture and history. In Virginia, local geographic features, waterways, and towns were frequently named for some natural, distinguishing element. These names were often chosen from the local herpetofauna. We have listed below all geographic place names which are herpetological in nature. All were obtained from Biggs (1974) and can be found on USGS 7 1/2' topographic maps. We have also included a brief description of most features and attempted to provide directions so these places can be found by using a general road map. There are 6 place names, 21 water features, and 23 land forms. Names of the topographic maps are in parentheses at the end of each description.

Place Names

Frog Level: (2) The first is 1.6 km S Dawn on US 301, Caroline Co. (This is listed as a land form by Biggs, 1974, but a newspaper account and personal observation indicate the people in the area regard their community by this name (Dawn)).

The second is located 2.4 km SW Tazewell at the junction of VA Rt. 91 and US 460 (Crockett's Store), Tazewell Co. (Tazewell South).

Frogstool: 4.8 km WSW Wachapreague on Co. Rt. 600 at its junction with Co. Rt. 743, Accomac Co. (Wachapreague).

Frogtown: 6.4 km NNE Ashby Gap on Co. Rt. 649, Clarke Co. (Ashby Gap).

Moccasin Gap: North edge of Weber City, at the junction of US 58 and US 23, Scott Co. (Gate City).

Moccasin Siding: 0.5 km SE Moccasin Gap on US 58, Scott Co. (Gate City).

Sliders: 15.3 km SW Buckingham Court House on VA Rt. 24, Buckingham Co. (Holiday Lake).

Water Features

Big Moccasin Creek: Runs SW in Moccasin Valley south of Moccasin Ridge, empties into North Fork of Holston River about 1.5 km SE Weber City, Scott and Russell Counties (Gate City, Hansonville, Hilton, Kingsport, Mendota, Moll Creek).

Copperhead Branch: Tributary of Indian Creek (confluence is just west of Co. Rt. 602), 1.6 km SW Council, Buchanan Co. (Big A Mountain).

Frog Branch: Tributary of Flatlick Branch just west of Brookfield, Fairfax Co. (Herndon).

Frogstool Branch: Headwaters in vicinity of Keller and is a tributary of Machipongo River, Accomac Co. (Accomac, Exmore).

Little Moccasin Creek: Lies between Moccasin Ridge and Clinch Mountain (to the south), parallels US 58 and empties into Big Moccasin Creek between Gate City and Weber City, Scott and Washington Counties (Brumley, Clinchport, Gate City).

Little Snake Creek: One arm is a tributary of Snake Creek, and both drain the north side of Mitchell Knob, west of Fancy Gap (Fancy Gap). A second arm (appears to be connected to the first) is a tributary of Big Reed Island Creek, joining it below US 221, Carroll Co. (Hillsville).

Middle Fork Moccasin Creek: (also North and South Forks) All three forks are tributaries of Big Moccasin Creek and all converge in Russell Co., 2 km S Hansonville (Brumley, Hansonville).

Moccasin Branch: Tributary of Little Reed Island Creek at the junction of Wythe and Carroll Counties, 1 km N Sylvatus (Sylvatus).

Racer Run: Tributary of and, along with Keyser Run, forms Covington River, above Smedley; they drain Wolf and Keyser Mountains, Rappahannock Co. (Washington).

Rattler Branch: Tributary of Bell Creek, 6.4 km SSW Prospect, Prince Edward Co. (Prospect).

Rattlesnake Branch: (2) One is a tributary of Big Prater Creek about 5.6 km S Vansant, Buchanan Co. (Vansant). The other is a tributary of Big Cub Creek just west of Madisonville, Charlotte Co. (Madisonville).

Rattlesnake Creek: (3) The first is a tributary of Falling River at Spring Mills in Appomattox and Campbell Counties (Mike). The second is a tributary of the James River, its confluence is southeast of the Huguenot Bridge in Richmond (formerly Chesterfield Co.) (Bon Air). The third is a long one that runs from NE of the junction of Co. Rts. 644 and 663 in Brunswick Co. eastward into Greensville Co. where it runs into Fontaine Creek (tributary of Meherrin River) (Barley, Gasburg, Valentines).

Rattlesnake Run: (3) One is a tributary of the Calfpasture River and drains Bald Ridge (Gordon's Peak), 5.2 km NNE West Augusta, Augusta Co. (West Augusta). The second is a tributary of Horsepen Creek in NE Fluvanna and NW Goochland Counties west of Shannon Hill (Ferncliff). The third drains Church Mountain and is a tributary of Capon Run (to North Fork Shenandoah River) east of VA Rt. 259 in Rockingham Co. (Bergton).

Rattlesnake Swamp: Runs from about 6.4 km west of Smithfield eastward to the Blackwater River above its junction with Co. Rt. 620, Isle of Wight Co. (Raynor, Smithfield).

Snake Creek: (2) The first is a tributary of Big Reed Island Creek, the confluence is 1.6 km E. Red Hill, drains N side of Mitchell Knob, Carroll Co. (Fancy Gap). The second begins east of Perth and is a tributary of Childrey Creek (to Roanoke River) (Brookneal).

Snake Run: (2) The first is a tributary of Dunlap Creek; Snake Run and its tributaries drain Snake Run Ridge and Peters Mountain, 1.1 km N Earlehurst, Alleghany Co. (Alleghany). The second is a tributary of the South Fork of the Blackwater River and enters it just SE of Callaway, Franklin Co. (Callaway, Ferrum).

Snakeden Branch: A tributary of Difficult Run due south of Reston running through Lake Audubon, Fairfax Co. (Vienna).

Terrapin Creek: (2) The first is a tributary of the James River, drains the east side of Terrapin Hill and lies about 2.4 km N Big Island, Amherst Co. (Big Island). The second runs south into the Roanoke River NW of the junction of Bedford, Campbell, and Pittsylvania Counties at Leesville Lake (Leesville).

Terrapin Swamp: Starts just east of Wakefield (Sussex Co.) and runs east through Surry Co. into Southampton Co. to the Blackwater River 1.4 km SSE of the junction of Co. Rts. 621 and 616. (Ivor, Raynor).

Toad Run: A tributary of Collier's Creek, drains Rich Hill and lies about 6.4 km west of Lexington, Rockbridge Co. (Collierstown).

Land Forms

Blacksnake Island: A small island in Lloyd Bay (leads to Chesapeake Bay) 1.6 km N Poquoson, York Co. (Poquoson East).

Copperhead Gap: A gap between Indian Ridge and Combs Ridge, 1.6 km SW Council, Buchanan Co. (Big A Mountain).

Frog Hollow: (2) The first is located between North Mountain and Apple Pie Ridge, traversed by Co. Rt. 654, 1 km E Green Spring, Frederick Co. (White Hall). The second lies 1 km NE Singers Glen and is traversed by Co. Rt. 780, Rockingham Co. (Singers Glen).

Frog Level: A broad, flat plain (200 ft. elevation) lying NE of Dawn, Caroline Co. (Hanover).

Frogpond Ridge: Lies 4.8 km SE Darwin in westcentral Dickenson Co. (Caney Ridge).

Little Moccasin Gap: A gap between two ridges of Clinch Mountain at the Russell-Washington Co. line, traversed by US 19 and US 58, 2.4 km E Hansonville (Brumley).

Moccasin Gap: A gap between Clinch Mountain and Brumley Mountain, traversed by US 19 and US 58, 1.6 km N Holston and 2.4 km SE Little Moccasin Gap, Scott and Washington Counties (Brumley, Gate City).

Moccasin Ridge: Begins about 1.6 km south of Clinchport in Scott Co. and runs ENE to Lebanon in Russell Co.; it is the ridge north of Clinch Mountain (Clinchport, Gate City, Hansonville, Hilton, Mendota, Moll Creek).

Moccasin Ridge Tunnel: A man-made tunnel through the southwestern portion of Moccasin Ridge, 0.3 km E Spear's Ferry Mill, Scott Co. (Clinchport).

Moccasin Valley: A valley between Moccasin Ridge to the north and Clinch Mountain to the south, drained by Big Moccasin Creek and its tributaries, lies between Gate City and Hansonville, Russell and Scott Counties (Gate City, Hilton, Mendota, Moll Creek).

Rattlesnake Hollow; (2) the first lies in the southeastern slope of Lockridge Mountain (WVA), 4.8 km NW Mountain Grove, Bath Co. (Minnehaha Springs). The second lies in the northeastern slope of Little Brushy Mountain, 8 km SE Mt. Gate, Tazewell Co. (Hutchinson Rock).

Rattlesnake Mountain: Located 3.2 km NW Hume in western Fauquier Co. (Flint Mill).

Rattlesnake Point: A small prominence 0.8 km S junction of Warren, Page and Rappahannock Counties on the Appalachian Trail between Piney Ridge and Hogback Mountain, Page and Rappahannock Counties (Bentonville, Thornton Gap).

Snake Den Mountain: Appears to be a part of Iron Mt. in the southeast corner of Smyth Co., 3.2 km SE Summit (Cedar Springs).

Snake Hollow: (2) The first is on the NE side of Snake Hollow Mountain, 9.7 km SW Bergton, Rockingham Co. (Cow Knob). The second is on the east slope of High Knob in southern Warren Co., 1.1 km WSW Linden (Linden).

Snake Hollow Mountain: Lies in western Rockingham Co., 3.2 km east of VA/W.VA state line, 9.7 km SW Bergton (Cow Knob).

Snake Island: A small island in Buckner Creek on the east side of Machodoc Neck, 11.3 km NE Montross, Westmoreland Co. (St. Clements Island).

Snake Run Ridge: A ridge that lies between VA Rt. 311 and co. Rt. 600, NE of Earlehurst, Alleghany Co. (Alleghany).

Snakeden Ridge: A ridge lying about 1.6 km NW Apple Orchard Mountain in the eastern corner of Botetourt Co. and southern end of Rockbridge Co. (Arnold Valley).

Terrapin Mountain: Lies 6.4 km WSW Big Island in Bedford Co. (Snowden).

Terrapin Point: A spit of land on the south side of the York River, 7.2 km NE Barhamsville, New Kent Co. (Toano).

Turtle Neck Point: At the southern edge of Robin's Neck near the confluence of Severn River and Mobjack Bay, 9.7 km NE Gloucester Point, Gloucester Co. (Achilles).

Turtle Point: A northeasterly oriented spit of land at the junction of South Branch and Lagrange Creek (tributaries of Rappahannock River), 5.6 km NW Urbanna, Middlesex Co. (Urbanna).

Acknowledgments - The topographic maps from which the above information was drawn were provided through a grant from the Non-Game Program of the Virginia

Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries.

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* * * * *

NECTURUS MACULOSUS IN THE NEW RIVER?

Richard L. Hoffman
Department of Biology
Radford University, Radford, Virginia 24142

In late June of 1947 I had the occasion to visit Dr. Paul R. Burch, professor of biology at the then Radford State Teacher's College. Although Dr. Burch was primarily interested in land snails, he had a fair knowledge of the local herp fauna and had built up a preserved collection of about 52 species. Most of the material was taken in and around Radford, with some from Mountain Lake and a few places in the eastern part of the state. With his permission I copied the locality data in my notebook. Some years later Burch retired from teaching, and as so often happens, his "museum" fell upon hard times of neglect and indifference. By 1960, when I began my association with the institution, many of the specimens recorded in 1947 were lost and those which remained had all of the labels removed and replaced by numbers. Predictably, the corresponding record book was also lost.

Among the most regrettable losses was a specimen of Necturus maculosus which had been labeled simply "Pulaski Co., near Towe's Ferry." If authentic, this represents the only extant record for the mudpuppy in the New River system. Necturids purchased for comparative anatomy classes can easily be accidentally mixed in with local material, but, in this case, Burch seemed quite aware of such a possibility and assured me that the specimen was indeed taken locally. Towe's Ferry crossed the New River upstream from Radford until the impoundment of Claytor Lake in 1939; its site is now under 60 feet of water.

During the 22 years that I have been at Radford University, no other specimens have been brought in by local fishermen, but this is not unusual because no one ever submits "waterdogs" (Cryptobranchus) even though these are frequently taken on trotlines. Although necturids are not commonly collected on baited lines, it is likely that any taken here would be regarded as small waterdogs and discarded. Geographically there is no reason that N. maculosus should not be here, and I do not doubt that a motivated collector will eventually obtain fresh material in the New River drainage basin.

FIELD NOTES

This section provides a means of publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles which does not lend itself to full-length articles. Observations on geographic distribution, ecology, reproduction, phenology, behavior and other areas are welcomed. Reports can be on a single species, groups of species or fauna from selected areas, such as a state park or county. The format for these reports is TITLE (species or area), COUNTY and LOCATION, DATE OF OBSERVATION, OBSERVERS, DATA AND OBSERVATIONS. Names and addresses of authors should appear one line below the report. Consult published notes or the editor of this section if your information does not fit this format.

If the note includes information on geographic distribution, a voucher specimen or color slide should be taken for verification and deposited in a recognized museum or sent to this editor. Species identification for observational records should be verified by a second person.

Send records (double spaced, typed) or inquiries to Dr. Joseph C. Mitchell, Dept. of Biology, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173.

The correct citation is: Pague, C. A. and B. J. Larson. 1982. Field notes: Oconeechee State Park. *Catesbeiana*, Bull. Virginia Herpetol. Soc. 2(2):12.

* * * * *

Lampropeltis getulus niger (Black Kingsnake): Scott Co., Virginia, Rye Cove, 1.5 mi. ENE Natural Tunnel, 27 September 1978. Steve Croy.

An adult male (1 meter total length) was found crossing the unimproved (gravel) County Rt. 647 (Cox Road) from north to south on this date. Weather was sunny with sparse clouds and a temperature of 75 F (24 C); time was 1430. The habitat in the immediate area was open, dry, old fields of broomsedge (Andropogon sp.) with numerous exposed outcrops of limestone. This occurrence represents the second county record in Virginia for this subspecies (Burger, 1975. VA Herpetol. Soc. Bull., 76:1-2) and may be the easternmost record. Voucher color slides have been deposited with the VaHS.

Steve Croy, Virginia Natural Diversity Information Program, Biology Department-Herbarium, VPI and SU, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

A LIMITED BULLFROG SEASON IN VIRGINIA?

Several states have hunting and/or bag limits on the bullfrog, Rana catesbeiana. It has been suggested that we seek to establish such limits here in Virginia. We are seeking information from contacts in these other states, but we also need to obtain information from Virginia residents. The specific problem is that there may be insufficient data on bullfrog activity and reproductive seasons in VA on which to base a sound decision. It seems unlikely that the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries will establish a law without sufficient justification. We are sure most of you would be in favor of bullfrog game laws. We need to know, however, which of you would be willing to help in obtaining the necessary data. Please examine this page, copy and return it to one of us if you can help.

Information needed on the following:

1. Season of activity in Virginia by physiographical region.
2. Egg-laying seasonal limits and peaks by region.
3. Impact of hunting on populations:
 - a. number taken versus estimated number present
 - b. season of hunting activity; are there peak times?
 - c. are females with eggs taken?
 - d. are entire populations eliminated?
4. Would season or bag limits be supported by VA game wardens and VA hunters?

If you are willing to contribute your time this year to help on this project, please check one or more of the following categories:

- Willing to contribute miscellaneous information only.
- Willing to actively seek information as noted in 1 and 2 above for a local population on a weekly basis.
- Willing to conduct a local survey of bullfrog hunters to obtain the information in number 3, only.
- Willing to spend one summer on a project that will provide answers to questions in 1, 2 and 3.
- Willing to coordinate mailing of questionnaires to wardens and hunters, and sort their responses.

Return this information to Robert N. Bader, Rt. 2, Box 78, Brookneal, VA 24528 or Dr. Joseph C. Mitchell, Dept. of Biology, University of Richmond, VA 23173

VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MEETING ABSTRACTS

Three herpetological papers were presented at the VAS meetings held on May 17-20, 1983 at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. The abstracts are reprinted below with permission of the editor of the VA Journal of Science.

A STUDY OF VARIATION IN EASTERN TIMBER RATTLESNAKES, CROTALUS HORRIDUS.

Christopher W. Brown*, Dept. of Biol., George Mason Univ., Fairfax, Va. 22124. Variation was examined in specimens of Crotalus horridus from the eastern United States in an attempt to substantiate the status of its two described subspecies as defined by Gloyd (1940). A particular effort was made to duplicate the results of a study by Pisani, et al. (1973), who concluded that no valid subspecies exist. A maximum likelihood factor analysis and stepwise discriminant analysis were performed on the same morphological characters used by Pisani, et al. (1973). Several additional characters relating to size and pattern were also examined.

THE ROLE OF VISION AND OLFACTION IN PREY SELECTION BY THE SKINK

SCINCELLA LATERALIS. Paul Nicoletto, Dept. of Biol., Va.

Polytechnic Inst., Blacksburg, Va. 24061. The relative roles of vision and olfaction in prey selection by the lizard Scincella lateralis were investigated. The hypothesis tested was that S. lateralis would respond to prey (cockroach) using olfactory cues alone. Lizards were tested with four stimuli: visual, olfactory, concentrated olfactory, visual and olfactory, and a control. Responsiveness to these stimuli was measured by the rate of tongue flicking during a five minute test period. The rate of tongue flicking to the olfactory stimulus alone was not significantly different from the control, but the concentrated olfactory, visual, and visual and olfactory were. Thus, response was primarily motivated by visual cues, except when the olfactory stimulus was strong.

THE REDISCOVERY OF CAPILLARIA SERPENTINA (NEMATODA:TRICHUROIDEA) FROM FRESH-

WATER TURTLES IN VIRGINIA. Thomas R. Platt, Dept. of Biol., Univ. of Richmond, Richmond, Va. 23173. Capillaria serpentina Harwood, 1932, was found in the mucosa of the small and large intestine of the snapping turtle, Chelydra serpentina, and the mucosa of the small and large intestine of Chrysemys p. picta and Sternotherus odoratus, respectively, from Westhampton Lake in Richmond. Specimens compared favorably with previous descriptions of this nematode. Comparisons of worms from different hosts and locations within hosts, in the present study, revealed no differences that would warrant establishment of new taxa. Cap. serpentina is, therefore, the only species of the genus reported from chelonians. This is the third report of Cap. serpentina and is a new state record for Virginia. C. picta and S. odoratus are new host records. (Supported by a grant from the Univ. of Richmond Faculty Research Committee.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESHL 1984 Meeting: The 1984 meeting of the Eastern Seaboard Herpetological League will be hosted by the VaHS and held on March 17, at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA. We will need your help in several areas. Please be sure to attend and be ready to assist wherever needed, e.g., projector operation, registration desk, refreshments, etc. We will be holding an auction to raise money to help defray the cost of the meeting. Bring your duplicate books, herp paraphernalia, or anything you think might sell. Ben Greishaw will be donating one of his exquisite herp sculptures to the cause. Bab Bader is donating some books and herp art.

Place: Swen Library, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Registration: 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Contact Bob Bader, Route 2, Box 78, Brookneal, VA 24528 (804/376-5191) or Jack Brooks, Dept. of Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23185 (804/253-4284).

See pages 19-20 for additional information.

Spring 1984 VaHS Meeting: The spring VaHS meeting will be held at Bob Bader's house at South Isle Plantation in Charlotte County, Virginia on April 14, 1984. Those of you who attended the spring 1982 meeting there remember an enjoyable time. Also note the herp diversity at South Isle in Bader's article in this issue.

The business meeting will be at 10:00 AM, lunch from about 12:00 - 1:00 PM, followed by a general meeting and paper session to about 4:00 or 5:00 PM. Field trips will be conducted Saturday night and Sunday for those who stay over.

A map and directions are on page 21. For information contact Bob Bader (804/376-5191).

SSAR/HL/ASIH: The three national herp societies will hold a joint meeting on 28 July - 3 August 1984, at the University of Oklahoma, in Norman. There will be several symposia and a workshop on amphibian larval biology. In addition to the paper sessions and symposia, the annual SSAR auction will be held - always a fun event, a barbecue featuring Oklahoma Indian dance ceremonies, and a roast bison banquet. For additional information contact Dr. Joseph C. Mitchell.

NEWS AND NOTES

Fall 1983 VaHS Meeting: Members of VaHS met at Longwood College, Farmville, VA on October 1, 1983, for our fall meeting. About 25 people were in attendance.

During the morning business meeting, the items of general interest discussed were the ESHL meeting (see page 19) and the problem of advertisements in the bulletin. On the latter point, a consensus was reached that we would not be in the business of advertising commercial products or publications. We will, however, maintain our approach of listing products, items, books, etc. with their addresses in the format found in Catesbeiana 3(2). This fulfills our commitment as an information source for our membership while avoiding problems associated with commercial advertisements.

The following slate of officers were re-elected to another term for 1984: President: Bob Bader, Vice-President: Jack Brooks, Secretary: Chris Pague, and Treasurer: Ben Greishaw. Joe and Wendy Mitchell will be editors of CATESBEIANA for 1984.

During the afternoon session the following papers were presented:

Amphibians and reptiles of the Fiji Islands, by Dr. George R. Zug

Distribution of Desmognathus ochrophaeus in southwestern Virginia, by Dr. Richard L. Hoffman

Some noteworthy records for Virginia amphibians and reptiles, by Dr. Joseph C. Mitchell and Christopher A. Pague

Genetic variation in Virginia populations of Agkistrodon piscivorus, by Dr. Donald A. Merkle

Update on the Hyla chrysoscelis - versicolor distribution problem in Virginia, by Christopher A. Pague and Dr. Joseph C. Mitchell

New VaHS life member: At the fall 1983 VaHS meeting Costello M. Craig was voted a life membership in the society. Cos was a founding member of the VaHS (then VHS) in 1958 and has been active in society functions, education of the public on herps and in advertisement of the society ever since. He introduced one of his nephews to herpetology at about the age of 12. That person has since obtained his Ph.D. and remains an active member of VaHS himself. Cos's three sons were also active in VaHS for many years, and one of them, Brian Craig, follows in his father's footsteps in giving public lectures on herps. We hope that Cos will accept the life membership as a token of our appreciation of his efforts and interest in Virginia herpetology.

Copperhead specimens needed: An undergraduate research project being conducted by Scott Stahl at the University of Richmond will focus on the reproductive cycle of the copperhead in Virginia. Specimens are needed from throughout the state and from all months of the active season, March-November. We would appreciate your help in securing specimens. Please salvage all road-killed copperheads. These may be either frozen or preserved in 10% formaldehyde. Required information accompanying each specimen is place and date of capture and collector. The goal is to obtain several specimens of each sex from each month of activity in 1984. If you can help, contact Dr. Joseph C. Mitchell, at the University of Richmond (804-285-6275) or at home (285-0591).

Virginia herpetology project update: The project underway by Joe Mitchell and Chris Pague on the natural history of Virginia's herpetofauna has progressed substantially since acquiring the support of the Non-Game Species Program of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries in 1983. By this spring we will have verified the identifications of over 12,000 specimens in the following museums and university collections: American Museum of Natural History (NY), Carnegie Museum of Natural History (Pittsburgh), Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago), Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard Univ.), National Museum of Natural History (Washington, DC), Cornell University, VPI and SU, and College of William and Mary. We have obtained a considerable number of measurements and

scale counts on samples of these specimens, as well as information on reproductive state. We have also obtained the stomach contents from many specimens for later identification.

It has become apparent that a knowledge of the variation that exists in each species is very important in proper identification of all specimens. However, we lack adequate sample sizes for many species from a variety of locations in Virginia. Thus, we cannot overemphasize that a series of 15-30 specimens of each species from each area of the state (ideally each county) is required to obtain a reasonable picture (and scientific record) of the variation in our fauna. We actually recognized this need long ago and is a major reason for our collecting efforts. We strongly urge those willing to help in the collecting efforts to contact us for proper procedures and a list of species in your area needing attention. (contact Joe Mitchell or Chris Pague)

Non-Game Species Program: Don't forget to check off the refund-contribution box on your Virginia state tax form this year. The Non-Game Program supports two herpetological projects - studies on sea turtles in the Chesapeake Bay at VIMS (Virginia Institute of Marine Science) and the research on the rest of Virginia's herpetofauna mentioned above.

Miscellaneous:

Their Blood Runs Cold, by Dr. J. Whitfield Gibbons, 1983, The University of Alabama Press, Box 2877, University, AL 35486. Price: \$9.95 paperback, \$19.95 hardcover, 164 pp.

We highly recommend this book. Whit Gibbons is the senior ecologist at the Savannah River U.S. Nuclear Plant in South Carolina, but, as he notes in his book, he is a herpetologist first and an ecologist second. He recounts a tale of capturing an alligator that makes you feel like you are standing in water and mud three feet deep next to him while trying to haul in a 12 foot gator that has a noose around its neck. His tales of gators, snakes, and other herps are vivid and the message he gets across is one of science and conservation. The book should be required reading of all herpetologists, whether amateur or professional.

SSAR Membership Directory, Herpetological Circular No. 13, 1983, available from Dr. D. H. Taylor, SSAR Publications Secretary, Zoology Dept., Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056 (\$4.00).

This book is a roster of all the members of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, the largest herp society in the world, for their 25th anniversary year. Of more general interest to our members are the history of the SSAR and a complete listing of all US and foreign herpetological societies (plus information about their publications). Those of you interested in joining other herp societies may find this publication useful.

Voices of the Night, revised 1983 edition, order from The Crow's Nest Bookshop, Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, NY 14850 (\$10.00 postpaid).

This is a recent revision of the first frog call record produced in the US. If you are interested in learning frog calls, this record is worth the price.

Vertebrate Ecology and Systematics...A Tribute to Henry S. Fitch, edited by R.A. Seigel, et al., Special Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist., Univ. Kansas, No. 10, (order from Publications Secretary, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045), prepublication price: \$18.50 before March 15, \$30.00 after March 15.

This book contains 18 contributions honoring Dr. Fitch. A complete bibliography of his many publications on herps is included, as well as a biography by W.E. Duellman. The papers are on the ecology, systematics, reproduction, behavior, and biogeography of herps.

A Field Guide to the Snakes of South Vietnam, by S. Campden-Main, reprinted edition of the 1970 publication, \$9.95 paperbound. Order from Herpetological Search Service and Exchange, 117 E. Santa Barbara Rd., Lindenhurst, NY 11757.

This 114 page publication includes range maps, descriptions, drawings, and a key to species, plus one plate.

Amphibians and Reptiles of New England, Habitats and Natural History. by R.M. DeGraff and D.D. Rudis, 1983, 112 pp., Univ. Massachusetts Press, Box 429, Amherst, MA 01004, \$14.00 cloth, \$6.95 paperbound.

Inventory of Live Reptiles and Amphibians in C ptivity. by F.L. Slavens, 1983 ed., 254 pp., \$25.00 cloth, \$20.00 paperbound plus \$1.50 postage. contact F.L. Slavens, Box 30744, Seattle, WA 98103.

Pillstrom Tongs. (snake tongs), 26-52 inches, \$33.00-38.00, write to Pillstrom Tongs, 4617 Free Ferry Road, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903 (501-452-3001).

Furmont Reptile Equipment. misc. snake and field hooks, write to Fuhrman Diversified, 701 South 8th. St., La Porte, TX 77571.

Sea Turtle Project at Tortuguero: The New York Zoological Society (NYZS) is assembling four teams of volunteers to work in the 1984 turtle nesting season at Tortuguero Beach, Costa Rica. Tours are 18 days in length and each team will be working with Caribbean Conservation Personnel. NYZS will provide lodging and food (no other costs were mentioned in the flyer). They are looking for "hearty" people willing to work hard under sometimes unpleasant conditions. This is the 28th. year of Dr. Archie Carr's green sea turtle research program at Tortuguero. If interested, contact John Behler, Curator of Herpetology, New York Zoological Society, 185th. St. and Southern Boulevard, New York, NY 10460.

Southwest Virginia (Powell River/Lee County) VaHS Field Expedition: During the week of July 1-7, 1984 (tentative dates), Joe Mitchell and Chris Pague will conduct a field trip to Lee County, VA. The goal is to obtain series of as many species as possible for studies of variation, diet, and reproduction, the information being incorporated in the book on VA herps. The Powell River will be intensively trapped for the entire period, and daily and nightly trips will be made to various other areas in SW VA. Participation is welcomed from any person who wants to join the field team for all or part of the trip. This trip is for people who are willing to work sometimes long and hard hours. If you are interested, come to the organizational meeting at the VaHS spring meeting on April 14.

EASTERN SEABOARD HERPETOLOGICAL LEAGUE

will hold its annual meeting at
The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA
on March 17, 1984

Tentative Schedule

10:00-11:00am Registration
11:00-11:15am Opening remarks
11:15-12:00 Population ecology and demography of two species of freshwater turtles in an urban lake, Dr. Joseph C. Mitchell, Univ. Richmond
12:00-12:45pm Natural history of the mole salamander Ambystoma talpoideum, Alvin Braswell, NC State Museum of Natural History
12:45-1:30pm Fifteen years of observations of the southeastern hylids in a semi-natural enclosure, Dr. A. J. Bullard, Jr., Mt. Olive, NC
1:30-1:45pm Break and ESHL representatives meetings
1:45-2:15 pm Auction
2:15-3:00pm The wetlands project, Patricia Riexinger, NT St. Dept. of Conservation
3:00-3:45pm Veterinary practices in herpetology, Dr. Elliott Jacobson, Univ. of Florida
3:45-4:30pm (title not available), Clark M. Shiffer, Herpetology & Endangered Species Coordinator, PA Fish Commission

PLACE: Swen Library building, College of William and Mary
PARKING: off Route 5 and Botetourt Drive

AUCTION: An auction will be held to help defray meeting expenses. Items include herpetology books, paintings and a sculpture by Ben Greishaw.

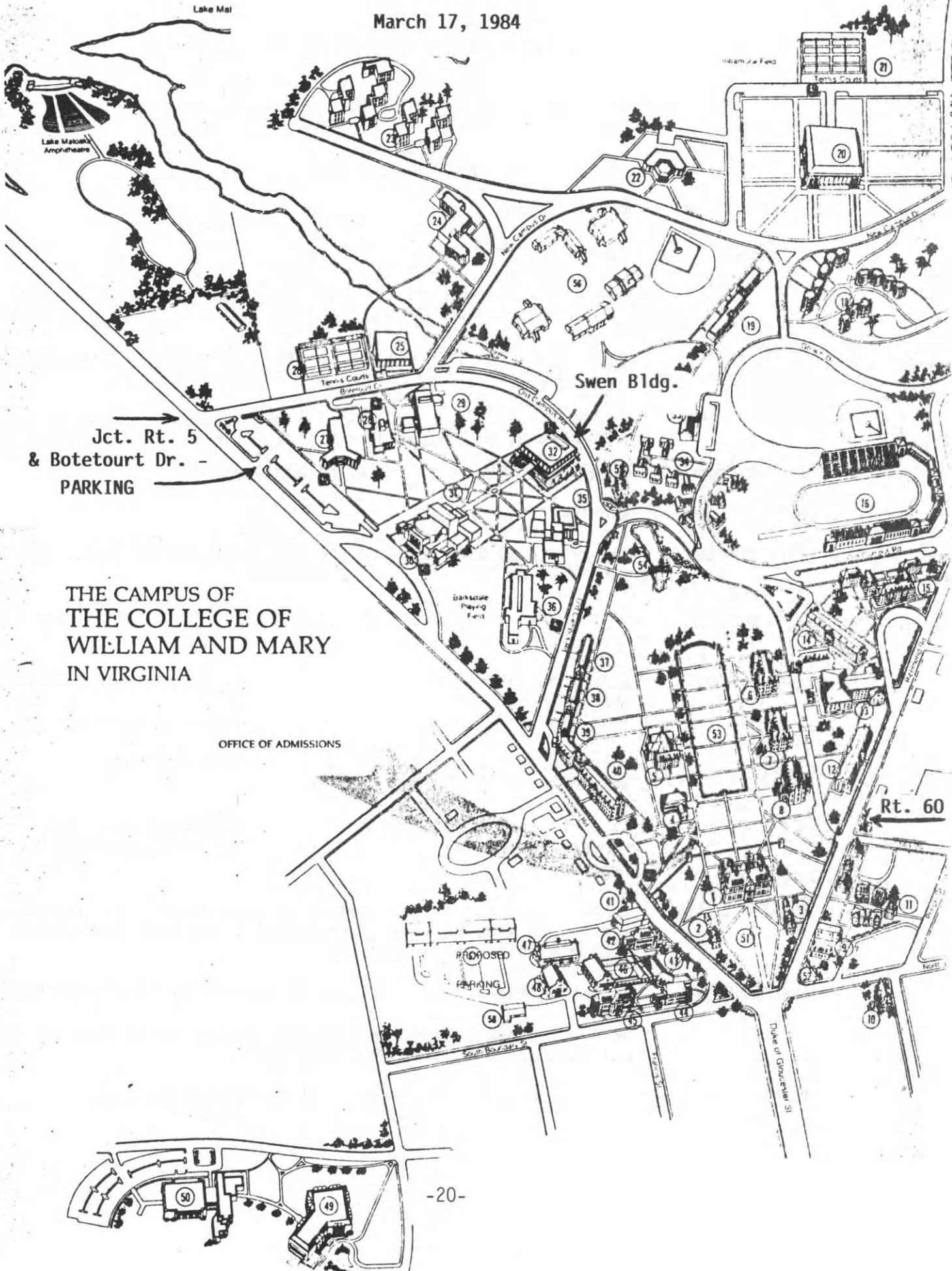
REFRESHMENTS: Coffee, tea, and miscellaneous refreshments will be available. There is a wide variety of restaurants and fast-food places within minutes of the campus.

INFORMATION: Robert N. Bader, Rt. 2 Box 78, Brookneal, VA 24528 (804-376-5191)
Dr. Jack Brooks, Dept. of Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23185 (804-253-4284)

The ESHL meeting is sponsored by the Virginia Herpetological Society.

1984 ESHL MEETING

March 17, 1984



Jct. Rt. 5
& Botetourt Dr. -
PARKING

THE CAMPUS OF
THE COLLEGE OF
WILLIAM AND MARY
IN VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

Rt. 60

Virginia Herpetological Society



The Virginia Herpetological Society was organized in 1958 to bring together people interested in advancing the knowledge of Virginia's amphibians and reptiles. The VaHS encourages the scientific study of Virginia's herpetofauna and its conservation. Educational activities continue to be important society functions.

Meetings are held twice each year, usually April and October. The program includes an exhibit session and a contributed papers session, during which members present information on their work on the amphibians and reptiles of Virginia.

The VaHS publishes a bulletin, CATESBEIANA, twice each year which contains articles, news and information on various aspects of Virginia herpetology. Members publish field notes and observations, distributional information and suggestions for improving husbandry techniques. Review articles appear occasionally. Material for inclusion should be sent to the editor, Dr. Joseph C. Mitchell, Dept. of Biology, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173.

Society dues are currently \$5.00 per year for members over 18, \$3.00 for members under 18 and \$7.50 for families. Make checks payable to the Virginia Herpetological Society. Inquiries should be addressed to Dr. J. C. Mitchell, Dept. of Biology, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173. Dues should be sent to the treasurer, Ben Greishaw, 7622 Hollins Rd., Richmond, VA 23229.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to initiate/renew (circle one) membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society for the year 19__.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Dues Category _____