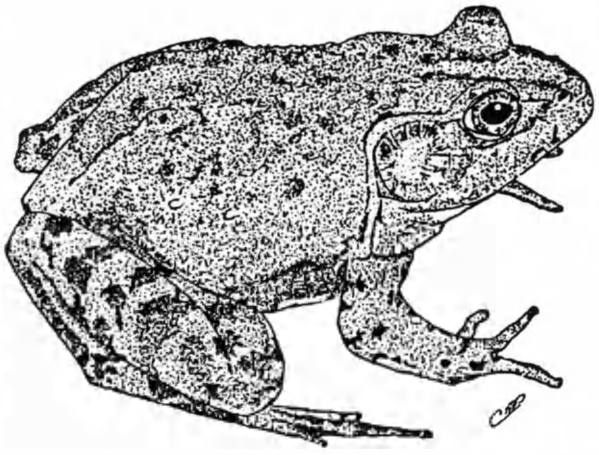
CATESBEIANA



BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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BULLETIN INFORMATION

Catesbeiana is issued twice a year by the Virginia Herpetological Society. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles and includes a subscription to *Catesbeiana* and admission to all meetings.

Dues are $5.00 per year and include a subscription to *Catesbeiana* numbers 1 and 2 for that year. Dues are payable to: Ronald Southwick, Secretary-Treasurer, 5608 Parkland Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23464.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The principle function of *Catesbeiana* is to publish observations and original research about Virginia herpetology. Rarely will articles be reprinted in *Catesbeiana* after they have been published elsewhere. All correspondence relative to suitability of manuscripts or other editorial considerations should be directed to Co-editors, *Catesbeiana*, Department of Biology, Liberty University, Box 20,000, Lynchburg, VA 24506.

Major Papers

Manuscripts being submitted for publication should be typewritten (double spaced) on good quality 8½ by 11 inch paper, with adequate margins. Consult the style of articles in this issue for additional information. Articles will be refereed by at least one officer (past or present) of the Virginia Herpetological Society in addition to the editor. All changes must be approved by the author before publication; therefore manuscripts must be submitted well in advance of the March or September mailing dates.

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

(Editorial policy continued on inside back cover.)

CATESBEIANA

Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society

Volume 11 Fall 1991 No. 2

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MEETING NOTICE

The Fall 1991 VHS meeting will be held on 5 October at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. See page 52-53 for details.

Herpetofauna of Chippokes Plantation State Park

Results of a field survey conducted by the
Virginia Herpetological Society
27-28 April 1991

The Virginia Herpetological Society had its 1991 spring meeting on 27-28 April at Chippokes State Park, Surry Co. During the two day field trip, numerous habitats on and immediately adjacent to Chippokes State Park were sampled for their herpetofauna. The following is a list of the 25 species found, and the predomininant habitat associated with each species.

Amphibians

Salamanders

Desmognathus auriculatus (Southern dusky salamander) found in ravine seeps.
Eurycea bislineata cirrigera (Southern two-lined salamander) found in ravine seeps.
Notophythalmus viridescens (Red-spotted newt) found in cypress swamp.
Plethodon cinereus (Red-backed salamander) found on woodland ridge.
Plethodon chlorobryonis (Coastal Plain slimy salamander) found on woodland ridge.

Frogs and Toads

Rana catesbeiana (Bullfrog) found in cypress swamp.
Rana clamitans (Green frog) found in cypress swamp.
Rana utricularia (Southern leopard frog) heard in cypress swamp.
Hyla chrysocelis (Gray treefrog) heard in woodland ravine.
Bufo terrestris x *fowleri* (Southern x Fowler's toad) found in field.

Reptiles

Lizards

Eumeces fasiatus (Five-lined skink) found on upland ridge under bark.
Scincella lateralis (Ground skink) found under debris at edge of field.
Eumeces laticeps (Broad-head skink) found on upland ridge under bark.

Snakes

Diadophis punctatus punctatus (Southern ringneck snake) found under debris on upland ridges.
Coluber constrictor (Black racer) found under debris at edge of field.
Elaphe obsoleta (Black rat snake) found under debris at edge of field.
Nerodia sipedon (Northern watersnake) in woodland pool.
Carphophis amoenus (Worm snake) found under debris at field edge.
Farancia erytrogramma (Rainbow snake) DOR adjacent cypress swamp.

Turtles

Terrapene carolina (Eastern box turtle) found on upland ridge at edge of ravine.
Chelydra serpentina (Snapping turtle) found in cypress swamp.
Kinosternon subrubrum (Eastern mud turtle) found in cypress swamp.
Sternotherus odoratus (Stinkpot) found in cypress swamp.
Pseudemys rubriventris (Red-bellied turtle) found in cypress swamp.
Chrysemys picta (Eastern painted turtle) found in cypress swamp.

Total number of species

Salamanders	5
Frogs and Toads	5
Lizards	3
Snakes	6
Turtles	6

Compiled by Kurt A. Buhlmann and Michael S. Hayslett.

First verified record of the Hawksbill Sea Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in Virginia Waters

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Chesapeake Bay is an important foraging area for juvenile loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and Kemp's ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys kempii*). It is estimated that up to 10,000 loggerheads (Byles, 1988; Keinath et al., 1987) and hundreds of ridleys (Musick, 1988) inhabit the bay during warm months. A smaller number of leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) may be observed in Virginia waters each year (Keinath et al., 1987). We now describe the first verified occurrence of the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) from Virginia waters.

Adult hawksbill turtles are tropical, and do not travel into temperate waters (Pritchard, 1979). Young hawksbills, however, have been observed beyond the adult range, from southern Brazil to New England in the western Atlantic (Carr, 1952). Hawksbills found outside the tropics are considered lost waifs. It has been reported that a "small number" of hawksbills were taken in the turtle fisheries near Beaufort and Morehead City, North Carolina (True, 1887), but their identification is uncertain. Schwartz (1976) reported four hawksbills captured in the same areas between 1970 and 1975. There are no verified accounts of the hawksbill turtle in the Virginian Sea or Chesapeake Bay (Musick, 1988). Woodard (1980) listed hawksbills from Accomack and Northampton (Virginia) counties but gave no references to the source of the information, and these records are doubtful. Schwartz (1967) suggested that hawksbills may occur in Maryland waters but provided no records. Musick (1972, 1988) described a hawksbill carapace in the collection of the Natural History Society of Maryland, simply labeled "Chesapeake Bay," with no information as to the exact collection location, date, or collector. Thus, the validity of the collection location can not be verified (Keinath and Musick, in press).

On 9 November 1990, a commercial clammer captured a small sea turtle in patent tongs at the mouth of the James River (ca 36° 59' N x 76° 16' W). The bay water temperature was 17°C. The fisherman transported the turtle to the Virginia Marine Science Museum (VMSM), where the turtle was identified as a hawksbill. The fisherman had removed many barnacles from the turtle, otherwise the animal appeared

to be in good physical health, and the turtle was kept at the VMSM overnight. Shrimp, squid, scallops, and fish were offered for food but rejected. Fecal samples revealed sand and a fish scale.

On 10 November 1990 the turtle was transported to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) for measurements (Table 1) and longer term observation. Since carapace lengths of mature hawksbills are over 90 cm and weights are over 125 kg (Pritchard, 1979; Witzell, 1983), it is obvious that this specimen was a young juvenile. Examination by a trained veterinarian and results of blood profiles confirmed the turtle was in good health. Samples of remaining barnacles revealed three species commonly observed on Chesapeake Bay loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*; Dodd, 1988, Lutcavabe and Musick, 1985, JAK, pers. obs.): *Chelonibia testudinaria, Chelonibia caretta,* and possibly *Balanus venustus*. The turtle was successfully fed squid on 11 November 1990. Fecal samples obtained on 12 November 1990 consisted of sponge and substrate material, along with a couple of fish vertebrae. Subsequently, the turtle was successfully fed squid and local sponges daily.

On 23 November 1990 the turtle was transferred to the VMSM, where the turtle was fed squid, scallops, and local sponges. As of 25 February 1991 the turtle had gained 1.5 kg. The turtle was transferred to The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on 26 February. University of Florida tags (X887 [R] and X888 [L]) were applied and the turtle was released in suitable habitat off Fort Lauderdale, Florida on 1 March 1991.

Hawksbills have been described as omnivorous (Carr, 1952; Ernst and Barbour, 1972). However, recent evidence suggests that they specialize on sponges (Meylan, 1988). The fecal samples we collected on 12 November 1990 indicate that this hawksbill had been feeding exclusively on sponges. Hawksbills typically inhabit coral reefs and rocky places (Ernst and Barbour, 1972; Pritchard, 1979; Witzell, 1983) and although Chesapeake Bay has no coral reefs, the sponges found in the fecal sample typically grow in hard substrates, such as oyster reefs and man-made structures. Hawksbill turtles found in Virginia's waters are extra-limital (Musick, 1988) and should be considered lost waifs.

Acknowledgments

D. Barnard and B. Sauls (VIMS) cared for the turtle while in captivity at VIMS, procured sponges for food and coaxed the animal into initial feeding. W. Teas (NMFS), the Georgia Marine Extension Center

Aquarium, and R. and J. Wershovern (Audubon Society of the Everglades) were instrumental in release of the turtle. This is VIMS Contribution No. 1688.

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Table 1. Measurements of hawksbill turtle captured in Chesapeake Bay.

Weight at Capture was 3.8 kg. (NA = not applicable)

MEASUREMENT	STRAIGHT (cm)	CURVED (cm)
Carapace mid-line length (notch to notch)	28.8	31.9
Carapace longest length (tip to tip)	31.0	33.2
Carapace width (widest point)	23.8	29.1
Plastron width (widest point)	15.2	NA
Plastron width with bridge (widest point)	20.1	NA
Plastron length (longest, mid-line)	24.2	NA

FIELD NOTES

Chelydra serpentina (Snapping Turtle): VA: Caroline Co., Rt. 1218, Bowling Green, VA, May 18, 1991, Dale Brittle.

An adult female snapping turtle was observed from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. the morning of 18 May 1991 in a plowed garden plot, approximately .4 km from a local pond and .2 km from a swampy low-land area. She deposited a clutch of 4 eggs in a hole dug 8 - 10 inches deep. Before selecting this site, she dug 5 holes, apparently not to her liking. The temperature was 24.5° C. (photo enclosed for VHS file).

Hyla versicolor (Gray Treefrog): VA: Loudoun Co., Rt. 671, 1.6 km S of US 340, mid-October 1990, Franklin J. Tobey.

A single specimen was found in the basement of a residence 1.6 km from the Potomac River on Route 671 (Harpers Ferry Road). This same general locality was described in a resume of Loudoun Co. specimens collected by Tobey, and earlier by J.T. Collins, if this is his site "5 miles (8 km) West of Lovettsville." The specimen was feeding readily on flies through February 1991. Chris Pague determined that the specimen was indeed *Hyla versicolor*. The specimen is being deposited in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History. Identification was checked upon capture with Martof *et al.* (1980. Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas and Virginia, Univ. of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N.C.) and Tobey (1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey, Privately published, Virginia Herpetological Society, Purcellville, VA., 114 pp).

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Terrapene carolina (Eastern Box Turtle); VA: Campbell Co., Candler Mountain, Rt. 670, Lynchburg, VA, July 2, 1991, Michael S. Hayslett.

An adult female box turtle was observed from 9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on the evening of 2 July 1991 on the shoulder of a woodland trail at approximately 339 m elevation on the southwest side of a fire-created "bald" on top of Candler Mountain, approximately 0.8 km east of Rt. 460.

Exiting the forest at dusk, my wife Nicole and I observed the female turtle engaged in egg laying procedures for one hour. She deposited a

clutch of only 2 eggs in our presence, but it is suspected that she had been at work for at least 2 hours prior to 9:30 p.m., when she was noted on our entry into the woods.

The female was quite slow and methodical in the digging of the nest, located on the mounded shoulder of the trail in semi-loose clay-loam soil. Positioning the posterior of her plastron over the 4 cm hole, she alternated the use of right and left hind feet for 2 - 3 "digs" with each foot. The nest was 5 - 10 cm deep and curved inward (toward her head) 7 - 10 cm. She "tested" the depth and shape of the nest with a hind foot periodically. The dirt was mounded around the rear edge of the opening. The temperature was 22° C and there had been a light rain shower around 7:00 p.m.

When the female laid each egg, she retracted her head into the carapace, stiffened her hind legs, and lowered her body. The eggs were noticeably elongated as they were deposited into the hole. After each egg, she added several portions of soil and tamped them into place.

Finally, the female filled in the nest by "raking" dirt with her hind legs, alternating from one to the other as well as extending both legs directly behind her and raking in a "double portion" of the soil. The surface was packed using her "fisted" feet as well as her tamping plastron.

Throughout the period, the female did not appear alarmed by the light from my headlamp, but would pause at the sound of our movements. Regardless, she seemed intent on completing her task despite our presence.

As of 30 July, the nest site showed no signs of disturbance or predation.

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Hyla versicolor versicolor (Eastern Grey Treefrog); *Hyla chrysoscelis* (Cope's Gray Treefrog): VA: Lunenburg County, 3 July 1991, Richard L. Hoffman.

Following a late afternoon thunderstorm I heard these two species calling

at numerous localities along Va. Hys. 137, 40, 49, and some "backroads", usually in roadside ditches. Their distribution was interesting, as noted here:

At a site ca. 1.6 km west of Dundas on Rt. 137, *H. versicolor* was extremely numerous and the only *Hyla* calling. In going west toward Kenbridge and Victoria, I began to hear *H. chrysoscelis* joining in from place to place, in some abundance. West of Victoria I heard no more gray treefrogs until passing a flooded puddle in an abandoned logging access road in second growth oak-pine woods just off Va. Hy. 690, ca. 2.6 km N of Rehoboth. Here about two dozen male *H. chrysoscelis* were calling vigorously, and but a single male *H. versicolor*. This distribution of the two species is rather the reverse of what one might expect, but is confirmed by an earlier (10 August 1988) encounter at the Va. Hy. 49 bridge over the North Meherrin River, roughly one mile from the site just mentioned. At that site "many" *H. chrysoscelis* were calling, against only one or two *H. versicolor*. The inference I draw from these observations is that the northern form (*H. versicolor*) is dominant in the eastern end of Lunenburg County, and the southern form (*H. chrysoscelis*) dominant in the western end. I could detect no evident differences in habitat that might account for this curious pattern.

Richard L. Hoffman
Virginia Museum of Natural History
Martinsville, VA 24112

Gastrophryne carolinensis carolinensis (Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad): VA: Lunenburg County: intersection of Va. Hys. 137 and 616, 1.6 km west of Dundas, 3 July 1991, R.L. Hoffman.

An extensive population of calling males was located at the above site, following a torrential late afternoon thunderstorm. All of the individuals were in or near flooded drainage ditches beside the roadbed of an abandoned N & W railroad right-of-way, the colony perhaps most concentrated at the point where the roadbed is crossed by Va. Hy. 616, but extended eastward for at least several hundred feet. I could ascertain at least 50 call sites, but was unable to collect a single specimen owing to the shyness of the frogs, their inaccessibility in tangled vegetation, and the lack of a dipnet. Also calling at this site were numerous male *Hyla versicolor* and a few *Bufo woodhousei fowleri*.

Although this locality represents a new Piedmont county record (cf. Tobey, 1985, Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles, p. 62) it is not an especially notable one, and is put on record primarily to emphasize the extremely localized occurrence of the species inland. Although the site was promptly circumnavigated on back roads, and plenty of likely places thereby seen (many conspicuously occupied by gray treetoads), not a single narrow-mouth was heard elsewhere, even along the old roadbed ditches. This tends to confirm my previous experience with this species, and suggests confinement to biotopes whose parameters, while stringent, are certainly not obvious to the human eye. Such distribution implies relictual populations marooned by the retreat of a contracting range periphery.

Collecting at the Lunenburg County site later in the summer, during the midst of breeding activities, ought to disclose calling males more amenable to capture, as well as likely roadkills.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Several members of the VHS attended the recent meetings of the Herpetologists' League and Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles held at Pennsylvania State University August 6-11. Virginians in attendance were Kurt Buhlmann, Ben Greishaw, Marty Martin, Don Merkle, Joe and Wendy Mitchell, Paul Sattler, Terry Spohn, and Frank Tobey. A brief review of these professional meetings and some observations will, I hope, be of interest to VHS members.

This annual meeting, like most such meetings, opened with a day for registration and an opening mixer that evening. The mixer was for people to become reacquainted with friends they see only once a year, and for everyone to meet new people. Meetings of the Boards of Trustees also occured on this day. The first day of papers opened with a plenary lecture by Dr. Raymond Huey, this year's Herpetologists' League's Distinguished Herpetologist. The title of his talk was "Evolution of performance: Reptiles and amphibians as models for general biological questions." Ray talked about his experiments on endurance and sprint speed in lizards. He designed runways and treadmills on which lizards were tested so that he can determine maximum sprint speed and endurance capacity. These results are related to the lizard's ecology so that he gains insights into the limits of performance under natural conditions.

A new opportunity for graduate students was organized by Russ Burke of the University of Michigan. He provided an hour for fellow graduate students to get to know one another and discuss their research. Impromptu posters made by those attending helped to stimulate discussions. None of us non-graduate students was allowed to attend, but we heard that it was a success.

Standard paper sessions, with 15 minute presentations of research summaries, started on the afternoon of Wednesday, August 7 and ran through Saturday, August 11. These papers covered a wide range of topics. Papers given by VHS members were "Life history attributes of the tiger salamander, *Ambystoma tigrinum*, in Virginia" by K.A. Buhlmann, J.C. Mitchell, and C.A. Pague, and "Demography and population dynamics of the timber rattlesnake" by W.H. Martin.

Two symposia were organized for these meetings. Dr. William Dunson organized a day-long symposium on Amphibian Declines and Habitat Acidification. Joe Collins and Jim Murphy organized a two-day symposium to honor Roger Conant on his 82nd birthday (which was actually on May 6). Speakers for the latter came from around the world to give talks to honor Roger's dedication to zoo research and management, and conservation. The following is Kraig Adler's abstract

for his opening talk on "The Remarkable Career of Roger Conant:"

> "Roger Conant has been one of America's leading and most influential herpetologists for many decades. Born in 1909, he began his professional career at the Toledo Zoological Park in 1929 and during this period he assembled the collections on which he based his book, "The Reptiles of Ohio" (1938, revised edition 1951). He became Curator of Reptiles at the Philadelphia Zoo in 1935 and Director in 1967. In 1958 he published the first edition of the volume on amphibians and reptiles in the Peterson Field Guide series, a title that was to become the best-selling and most widely used book in herpetology and is now (1991) in its third edition. He has also published numerous technical and popular books and papers, most recently a volume on the snakes of the genus *Agkistrodon* complex (1990), co-authored with the late Howard K. Gloyd. His career was honored in 1971 which the University of Colorado conferred upon him the degree of Sc.D. He is now Adjunct Professor of Biology at the University of New Mexico and this week's symposium, entitled "Captive Management and Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles," is dedicated to him."

The publisher of the Peterson Field Guide series, Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company, donated 300 copies of the third edition of Roger's book. Every copy was sold at the meetings. The money obtained from their sales will help pay for the forthcoming book, a collection of papers given in the symposium. Roger spent many hours autographing books. He estimated he signed over 400.

Professional meetings are not without their light side. David Dennis and Eric Juterbock presented their ever-popular multi-screen slide shows. Herpetologists Past and Present was inspiring as always. Their Reptiles and Amphibians of the American West gave us spectacular scenery and awesome snakes. And the breathtaking Amphibians of the Southern Appalachians exquisitely cued to Aaron Copeland's "Appalachian Spring" was shown to an audience that never tires of seeing it. That was on the second night. The third evening's entertainment was a picnic under Beaver Stadium, the place where Joe Paterno's football team draws large crowds. The beer and barbecue were available in great

quantities and herpetologists of all sorts mingled on and under the stands. The auction was held during the last evening and Joe Collins, the seasoned auctioneer, cajoled, ribbed, and otherwise teased the funnybones of the beer-drinking audience into bidding on lots of herp items and other things of interest. One out-of-print book went for about $435. During intermission, Kraig Adler passed around a new song that a couple of hundred people sang for Roger Conant. I thought you might enjoy it.

Roger, Roger Conant
(Sung to the tune of Davy Crocket)

"Born in Mamaroneck in New York State,
at Boy Scout camp he met his fate.
Searchin for critters amongst the greens,
caught his first snake 'fore he was thirteen.

Roger, Roger Conant, King of the Herp Frontier!

Left his home in '28.
North Ohio's where he got his break.
Forget about Marlin and Moody too,
he built a Herp collection at Toledo Zoo.

Roger, Roger Conant, King of the Herp Frontier!

Now everything was goin alright,
until he suffered that *mitchelli* bite.
But workmans comp made things alright,
got a '31 Chevy for an old Willeys-Knight.

Roger, Roger Conant, King of the Herp Frontier!

When his stint at Toledo was through,
he got a job at the Philly Zoo.
Radio shows while Isabelle paints,
he rode to work in silence with Ed Malnate.

Roger, Roger Conant, King of the Herp Frontier!

Then there came that fateful day,
The Field Guide Project came his way.
As sleepless nights were sure to follow,
he'd duck away to hide in Hyla Hollow.

Roger, Roger Conant, King of the Herp Frontier!

With other projects he toyed,
Agkistrodon monograph with Howard Gloyd.
The die was cast, the work is through,
Is there anything Roger can't do?

Roger, Roger Conant, King of the Herp Frontier!"

Aside from the fun, two things about these meetings struck me as interesting. There were more young graduate students, many of them women, and nonprofessionals at this meeting than in previous years. And many of the papers presented were either entirely devoted to conservation, or conservation issues were part of talks devoted to more technical aspects of herpetology. Conservation is on almost everyone's mind. The amphibian decline problem and the numbers of turtles in peril (nearly half of the world's turtle species) were discussed by many people. National and international groups have been formed to tackle these problems. Some of the world's amphibians and reptiles are among the most endangered species. The habitats of these animals continue to be eroded away by human endeavors - witness the pending changes in the U.S. wetlands regulations we've been reading about in the papers. Conservation papers will populate professional meetings for many years to come.

The fall meeting of the VHS is sort of a mini-national meeting. We have a business meeting, followed by an afternoon of papers presented by members. In recent years we have had a social event after the meeting and a workshop on herps for the public. And last year we had our first raffle. Although we do not meet as often as some regional societies, we do have what I would call a truly scientific meeting. After all, isn't that what we're about?

We will have another raffle at the fall meeting again this year. There will be several prizes, but perhaps the most sought after will be the copy of the third edition of Roger Conant's field guide, autographed by him, his co-author, Joe Collins, and the book's illustrator, Tom Johnson.

All of them signed this copy during the recent HL/SSAR meetings this month. Your attendance at our meeting on October 5 and your purchase of raffle tickets will help insure that the VHS remains an active, viable, and entertaining regional herpetological society.

Joseph C. Mitchell
President, VHS
16 August 1991

VHS NEW COUNTY RECORDS POLICY

New county records published in *Catesbeiana* require more stringent verification than other types of observations. Reports of new county records will require one of two means of verifying species identification in addition to the required precise locality data. Identification could be verified from either a photograph(s) or more normally, from a preserved specimen deposited in a museum collection. If a photograph is used, it must be of sufficient quality to allow differentiation from even closely related taxa, and be deposited in a museum slide collection or with the VHS. Suitable museum collections include permanent collections open to all professional herpetologists. This includes but is not limited to the Smithsonian Institution, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and the Virginia Museum of Natural History. Private or teaching collections are considered inappropriate repositories for such valuable specimens. In rare instances where morphological identification is not possible, submission of a sonogram or tape (ex. the gray treefrogs), tissue sample (ex. some salamanders), or other supporting evidence might be required. In cases of questionable identification experts with the taxon will be consulted.

Joseph C. Mitchell Paul W. Sattler

VHS FIELD RESEARCH GRANTS

At the Fall 1988 meeting of the VHS the membership approved the establishment of a small research grant program. The purpose is to provide modest funding for field research on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles. This program is directly in keeping with the original 1958 charter of the VHS - to advance the knowledge of the herpetology of Viriginia. It is a fitting advancement after 30 years of committment by VHS.

Persons eligible for the grant must be VHS members in good standing. VHS officers and members of the grant committee are not eligible. This fund is intended to be used by persons not eligivle to receive grants from other sources; lay-persons are especially encouraged to apply.

A 1 - 2 page, typewritten proposal must be submitted that includes the following components: **background and objectives, metholdology, schedule, an itemized budget, a brief resume, and name, address, and phone number of one personal reference.** The proposal should not request more than $100. The types of projects envisioned are surveys of parks or counties, distributional surveys of species not well known, acquisition of quantitative data on various aspects of the natural history of one or more species. Generally, most funds are expected to be spent on travel and supplies.

Awards will be made once annually and announced publically at the Spring meeting. Awards will be based on (1) merit, that is, to what extent will it benefit Virginia herpetology; and (2) the probability of completion within the stated schedule. The committee will judge the proposals and use outside evaluations when necessary.

At the end of the research period, a formal report must be submitted to VHS. THis report will be published in *Catesbeiana*. A manuscript submitted for publication in *Catesbeiana* based on the research can be used in lieu of a final report. All receipts for gas, food, supplies, etc. must be included with the final report.

DEADLINE FOR 1992 PROPOSALS IS FEBRUARY 1, 1992.

Inquiries or proposals should be sent to Joseph C. Mitchell, President of VHS, Dept. of Biology, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173.

MINUTES OF SPRING 1991 VHS MEETING

Thirty people including several very enthusiastic young herp lovers attended the Spring meeting held at Chippokes State Park in Surry County, April 27, 1991. President Joe Mitchell opened the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Minutes of the Fall meeting were accepted as written. Secretary/Treasurer Ron Southwick presented the Treasurer's Report. The Society's treasury has $2426.91 which includes $1401.91 in checking and $1025.00 in a CD.

Editor's Report

Paul Sattler reported that a total of 180 copies of *Catesbeiana*, Vol. 11, No. 1 were printed. Total cost of printing and postage was $259.08. Paul requested more manuscripts and field notes for the Fall issue.

Paul discussed the "VHS New County Records Policy" for *Catesbeiana*. There was some discussion concerning research vs. teaching collections as depositories for new county records, and this would be addressed in the new Policy.

Doug Eggleston could not attend the meeting due to injuries received in a recent auto accident. Paul relayed that the 3rd issue of the newsletter was completed and ready for mailing. Paul also said that Doug already had enough material for the next newsletter.

Old Business:

Joe Mitchell said that only one person has applied for the VHS Research Grant since its inception over two years ago. Joe asked the group to encourage students to apply for the $100.00 grant.

So far $925.00 has been donated for the VHS "Poster". Joe said he does not have sufficient time to continue with soliciting donations, writing proposals, etc., and asked for help with these tasks so that the VHS poster does become a reality.

New Business:

Increase in dues: Ron Southwick reported that the costs of Catesbeiana and newsletter printing and postage (per member) were exceeding the $5.00 annual dues. Joe said that VHS dues are the lowest he knows of as far as herp societies. There was a motion by Terry Spohn (seconded by Chris Pague) to raise dues to $10.00/yr. for Regular membership, $6.00 for members under 18 years old and $12.50 for

Family membership. The motion was passed to raise the annual dues. The increase would go into effect January, 1992. Life membership would still remain at $150.00

Fall meeting site: Paul Sattler extended a formal invitation to the VHS to have the Fall, 1991 meeting at Liberty University in Lynchburg. Joe wants to continue with morning educational programs for children at the Fall meeting, and Paul said he could make arrangements for such a program. Joe reported that Wintergreen wants the Society to hold its Spring (92) meeting at their facility. Joe said he would explore costs, etc.

Change in officers: Ron Southwick recommended changing the structure of elected officers. Presently they include President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer, and each can serve up to 4 years consecutively. Ron's suggestion was to have a Vice President, President-elect, President and Secretary/Treasurer. A new vice president would be elected each year and would be a voting member of the EXCOM. The VP would move into the President-elect position in the second year and be responsible for meeting arrangements and assisting the President as needed. The President-elect would then become President in the third year and assume those responsibilities. In the fourth year the Past-president would serve in an advisory capacity and as a voting member of the EXCOM. This structure would still ensure long term continuity of the EXCOM while alleviating the long term (up to 4 years) of being President. Ron recommended that the Secretary/Treasurer position still be a multi-year term. Dale Brittle recommended that Joe appoint someone to write up proposed change to the Bylaws. The change would be discussed and voted on at the Fall meeting. Joe appointed Ron Southwick.

Joe called for any other new business - there was none, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Southwick,
Secretary and Treasurer

VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
Spring 1991 Meeting

The balance in the bank reported at the Fall Meeting was $2122.19.

Expenditures since that time included:

11/27/90	ck.#114	1st Newsletter & postage	49.50
01/02/91	ck.#115	2nd Newsletter & postage	49.50
01/12/91	ck.#116	Donation to S.S.A.R.	100.00
01/12/91	ck.#117	Expenses for Fall meeting	40.00
03/21/91	ck.#118	*Catesbeiana* & postage	238.28
03/21/91	ck.#119	Postage	65.50
		check charge	1.40
Total Expenditures			$545.18
Receipts from dues			$679.50
		Interest	63.40
		Newsletter ad	25.00
		Raffle at Fall meeting	47.00
		Donation for poster	25.00
		Sale of Tobey book	10.00
Total Receipts			$847.90
04/12/91	Transferred from checking to 1 year CD		
		Poster donations	925.00
		Life membership	100.00
Total transferred to CD			$1025.00
Balance in checking as of 4/26/91			$1401.91
Total money in treasury			$2426.91

The Society has a current membership of 125 as of 4/26/91.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Southwick
Secretary and Treasurer

ANNOUNCEMENT
FALL 1991 MEETING OF THE
VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Fall 1991 VHS meeting will be held on October 5 at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Schedule:	9:00 a.m.	Herp Educational Workshops Begin
	10:30 a.m.	Business Meeting
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch
	1:30 p.m.	Announcements
		Election of Officers
		Afternoon Sessions
		Social and Raffle

This year the Blue Ridge Herpetological Society will conduct the educational workshop. If you would like to help and/or bring some of your favorite captives please call Doug Eggleston at 804-376-5229.

Representatives of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will be present to discuss and answer questions relating to the new regulations concerning the collection and sale of native herps.

There are numerous fast-food restaurants within a few minutes drive of campus. You may eat out or bring a bag lunch. Please bring a contribution of food or drink to share at the evening social. This is a great time for interacting with our widely dispersed membership. Please plan on joining us.

The second annual VHS raffle will be held during our social. There will be several herp books autographed by the authors, including the new Conant/Collins field guide, and many other herp-related items. If you have a raffle prize to donate, please call Doug Eggleston at 804-375-5229.

If you would like to present a paper during the afternoon session, please call Paul Sattler at 804-582-2209 or 385-6605, or send a letter giving your title to the co-editors of *Catesbeiana*. Presentations should be about 15 minutes in length.

FALL 1991 MEETING

Directions to Liberty University:

From 29 North of Lynchburg take the second Candlers Mountain Road exit (marked for Liberty University), follow the sign for Liberty University turning right just past River Ridge Mall, Turn right at the second traffic light and follow the VHS signs on campus to the DeMoss parking lot.

From 460 East of Lynchburg take the Candlers Mountain Road exit (marked for Liberty University), and turn left at the first traffic light, then right at the second light after that one, following the VHS signs on campus to the DeMoss parking lot.

From 460 West of Lynchburg take the bypass towards Appomattox instead of the Lynchburg Expressway. Take the Candlers Mountain Road exit (marked for Liberty University). At the exit's stop sign, go straight, onto the campus following the VHS signs to the DeMoss parking lot.

From 29 South of Lynchburg you may turn right onto the unmarked back entrance just after the Super Clean Car Wash and before the River Ridge Auto Body Shop, or turn right into the back entrance of River Ridge Mall, turning right at each stop sign so that you turn right out of the Mall onto Candlers Mountain Road. Take the first right, then turn right again at the second traffic light, following the VHS signs to the DeMoss parking lot.

From the DeMoss parking lot go through the building into the"Courtyard of Flags". Go into Science Hall on your right, the first door for the educational workshop and the second door for the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to ____ initiate ____ renew membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society for the year 19____.

__ I wish only to receive a membership list. Enclosed is $1.00 to cover the cost.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Dues Category: __ Regular __ Family __ Under 18 __ Life

~~($5.00)~~	~~($7.50)~~	~~($3.00)~~	($150)
10.00	12.50	$ 6.00	

Interests: __ Reptiles __ Amphibians __ Captive Husbandry

__ Distribution __ Research

__ Specifically _____

Make checks payable to the Virginia Herpetological Society and send to the treasurer: Ronald Southwick, 5608 Parkland Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23464.

Field Notes

This section provides a means of publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles that 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 single species or fauna from selected areas, such as a state park or county. The format of the 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 if your information does not readily fit this format.

If the note contains information on geographic distribution, a voucher specimen or color slide should be sent for verification and deposited in a permanent museum or sent to the Virginia Herpetological Society. Species identification for observational records should be verified by a second person.

The correct citation format: Tobey, F.J. 1989. Field notes: *Coluber constrictor constrictor*. *Catesbeiana* 9(2):35.

Herpetological Artwork

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.

This replaces this

Species' scientific name (common name): State abbreviation: County, locality. Date. Observer(s) or collector(s).

Report or observations given one line below the data mentioned above.

~~Name~~ Author(s) name and address are given one line below the report or observation.