

DISTRIBUTION OF
THE SNAKES OF VIRGINIA

by

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In order to get even a very general idea of the distribution of Virginia forms, checks were made in a number of collections. The data have been placed on a series of large state maps. These are to be used both by VHS members and interested herpetologists.

The accompanying pages are to show just how little is really known concerning the distribution of Virginian snakes. Later lists on the other reptiles and the amphibians will show even less knowledge of the extent of these forms.

VHS may not identify the sources of all of its data without advance approval or knowledge of those who have contributed data based upon a private collection. Communicate with the VHS Secretary on matters relating to location of specimens.

If you know of records in other collections, private or otherwise, please drop a note to VHS telling where these specimens may be seen and providing any data which may be in your possession.

It is the hope of the author that the data will be greatly improved over the next few years by careful collecting and record-keeping.

Collections searched for snakes from Virginian localities are as follows:

American Museum of Natural
History (New York)

Carnegie Museum (Pittsburgh)

Cornell University (Ithaca, NY)

Museum of Comparative Zoology
(Harvard University, Boston)

University of Maryland
(College Park, Maryland)

U.S. National Museum
(Smithsonian Institution)
Washington, D.C.

Collections of:

W. Leslie Burger, and
John Thornton Wood, MD

THE SNAKES OF VIRGINIA

✓ 1. BROWN WATER SNAKE	<u>Natrix taxispilota taxispilota</u>
✓ 2. RED-BELLIED WATER SNAKE	<u>Natrix erythrogaster erythrogaster</u>
✓ 3. NORTHERN WATER SNAKE	<u>Natrix sipedon sipedon</u>
4. QUEEN SNAKE	<u>Natrix septemvittata septemvittata</u>
5. GLOSSY WATER SNAKE	<u>Natrix rigida rigida</u>
✓ 6. NORTHERN BROWN SNAKE	<u>Storeria dekayi dekayi</u>
✓ 7. NORTHERN RED-BELLIED SNAKE	<u>Storeria o. occipitomaculata</u>
✓ 8. EASTERN GARTER SNAKE	<u>Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis</u>
9. EASTERN RIBBON SNAKE	<u>Thamnophis sauritus sauritus</u>
10. ROUGH EARTH SNAKE	<u>Haldea striatula</u>
✓ 11. EASTERN SMOOTH EARTH SNAKE	<u>Haldea valeriae valeriae</u>
12. MOUNTAIN EARTH SNAKE (Va.?)	<u>Haldea valeriae pulchra</u>
✓ 13. EASTERN HOUSNOSE SNAKE	<u>Heterodon platyrhinos platyrhinos</u>
✓ 14. SOUTHERN RINGNECK SNAKE	<u>Diadophis punctatus punctatus</u>
✓ 15. NORTHERN RINGNECK SNAKE	<u>Diadophis punctatus edwardsi</u>
✓ 16. EASTERN WORM SNAKE	<u>Carphophis amoenus amoenus</u>
17. RAINBOW SNAKE	<u>Abastor erythrogrammus</u>
18. EASTERN MUD SNAKE	<u>Farancia abacura abacura</u>
✓ 19. NORTHERN BLACK RACER	<u>Coluber constrictor constrictor</u>
20. EASTERN COACHWHIP (Va.?)	<u>Masticophis flagellum flagellum</u>
✓ 21. ROUGH GREEN SNAKE	<u>Opheodrys aestivus</u>
22. EASTERN SMOOTH GREEN SNAKE	<u>Opheodrys vernalis vernalis</u>
23. CORN SNAKE	<u>Elaphe guttata guttata</u>
✓ 24. BLACK RAT SNAKE	<u>Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta</u>
25. NORTHERN PINE SNAKE	<u>Pituophis melanoleucas melanoleucas</u>
✓ 26. EASTERN KING SNAKE	<u>Lampropeltis getulus getulus</u>
27. BLACK KING SNAKE	<u>Lampropeltis getulus niger</u>
28. EASTERN MILK SNAKE	<u>Lampropeltis doliata triangulum</u>
✓ 29. COASTAL PLAIN MILK SNAKE	<u>Lampropeltis doliata temporalis</u>
30. SCARLET KING SNAKE	<u>Lampropeltis doliata doliata</u>
✓ 31. MOLE SNAKE	<u>Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata</u>
✓ 32. SCARLET SNAKE	<u>Cemophora coccinea</u>
33. SOUTHEASTERN CROWNED SNAKE	<u>Tantilla coronata coronata</u>
✓ 34. NORTHERN COPPERHEAD	<u>Agkistrodon contortrix mokeson/</u>
35. EASTERN COTTONMOUTH	<u>Agkistrodon piscivorus piscivorus/</u>
36. CAROLINA PIGMY RATTLESNAKE	<u>Sistrurus miliarius miliarius/</u>
37. TIMBER RATTLESNAKE	<u>Crotalus horridus horridus /</u>
38. CANEBRAKE RATTLESNAKE	<u>Crotalus horridus atricaudatus /</u>

/ Deadly Poisonous species.

(See notes in VHS Bulletin No.38)

SNAKES OF VIRGINIA BY COUNTIES

(Accomack to Dickenson Counties)

KEY:

- X - county record
- L - literature record
- e - expected (or observed)

⊖ VPI collection

	Accomack	Albemarle	Alleghany	Amelia	Amherst	Appomattox	Arlington	Augusta	Bath	Bedford	Bland	Botetourt	Brunswick	Buchanan	Buckingham	Campbell	Caroline	Carroll	Charles City	Charlotte	Chesterfield	Clarke	Craig	Culpeper	Cumberland	Dickenson
1. BROWN WATER S																			e							
2. RED-BELLIED W.	e												?													
3. N. WATER S.	X	X	X	X	X	e	X	X	X	X	X	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
4. QUEEN SNAKE		X	e		e	X	X	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	?	e
5. GLOSSY WATER																			e							
6. NO. BROWN S.	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
7. NO. RED-BELLIED	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
8. E. GARTER S.	e	e	X	X	e	e	X	X	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
9. E. RIBBON S.	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e
10. ROUGH EARTH S.				e									X				?		X		e					
11. SMOOTH EARTH	X	X	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	X	e	e	e	e
12. MTN. EARTH S.				X								?		?												?
13. E. HOGNOSE S.	X	e	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e
14. S. RINGNECK S	e																									
15. N. RINGNECK S		X	X	e	e	X	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	X	e	e
16. E. WORM SNAKE	e	X	X	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e
17. RAINBOW SNAKE																			e							
18. E. MUD SNAKE				X									?				?		e	e						
19. BLACK RACER	X	X	X	X	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	X	e	X	e	e
20. E. COACHWHIP				X																						
21. ROUGH GREEN S.	X	X	X	e	e	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e
22. SMOOTH GREEN		e	X	X				e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e		e				e	X		e	
23. CORN SNAKE	e	X	X	X	e	e	?	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
24. BLACK RAT S.	e	X	X	X	e	e	e	X	X	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	X	X	X	e	e
25. N. PINE SNAKE		e	X	X	e			e	X	e	e	e	e	e				e			?	L			e	
26. E. KING SNAKE	X	X	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	X		e	e		X	e	X	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e
27. BLACK KING S.											?			?												?
28. E. MILK SNAKE		X	X	X			X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e				e				X	e	e	e	e
29. COASTAL PLAIN	X	X		X	e	e	X	X	e			e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e			e	
30. SCARLET KING	?			X															L							
31. MOLE SNAKE		X	X	X	e	e	X	e	e			X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
32. SCARLET SNAKE	e	e	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
33. S.E. CROWNED S.		?			X	?			e	e		e		L	e		e	e	e							
34. N. COPPERHEAD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	e	e	X	X	X	X	X	X	e	X	e	X	X	X	X	e	X
35. E. COTTONMOUTH																			?	e						
36. PIGMY RATTLER																										
37. TIMBER RATTLER		X	X		e		X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	?		e				X	X	e	e		
38. CANEBRAKE "																										
39. E. DIAMONDBACK.																										?

SNAKES OF VIRGINIA BY COUNTIES

(Dinwiddie to Lee Counties)

KEY:

- X - county record
- L - literature record
- e - expected (or observed)
- ? - Does it occur ?

⊕ VPI Collection

Ⓜ Extension collection

	Dinwiddie	Essex	Fairfax	Fauquier	Floyd	Fluvanna	Franklin	Frederick	Giles	Gloucester	Goochland	Grayson	Greene	Greensville	Halifax	Hanover	Henrico	Henry	Highland	Isle of Wight	James City	King & Queen	King George	King William	Lancaster	Lee
1. BROWN WATER S.														?						e	e					
2. RED-BELLIED W.														X						e	e					
3. N. WATER S.	e	e	X	X	e	X	e	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	X	X	e
4. QUEEN SNAKE			X	X	e	X	e	e	e		?	e	e		e				e	e					X	
5. GLOSSY WATER														e						e	e					
6. NO. BROWN S.	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	e
7. N. RED-BELLIED	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
8. E. GARTER S.	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	X	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	X	X	X
9. E. RIBBON S.	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e
10. ROUGH EARTH S.	e	e								e	e			e	e	X				e	X	e	e			
11. SMOOTH EARTH	e	e	X	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e		e	X	e	e	X	X	e
12. MTN. EARTH S.									?																?	
13. E. HOGNOSE S.	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e
14. S. RINGNECK S																				?	X					
15. N. RINGNECK S	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	?	X	e	X	e	X	X
16. E. WORM SNAKE	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	X	X	
17. RAINBOW SNAKE	e									e						e	?			e	X	e	e	X	e	
18. E. MUD SNAKE	e	?							?				X	e	e				e	e	e		?	?		
19. BLACK RACER	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e
20. E. COACHWHIP												?				?										
21. ROUGH GREEN	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e			e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	X
22. SMOOTH GREEN				e	e	e	e	e				e	e						e							e
23. CORN SNAKE			e	X	e	e	e	X	e	X	e	e	e	e	e				e	e					e	
24. BLACK RAT S.	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	X	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	X
25. N. PINE SNAKE					e	e	?	L				e	e						e	e					e	
26. E. KING SNAKE	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e
27. BLACK KING S.																									X	
28. E. MILK SNAKE			e	e			X	X				e	e						X						X	
29. COASTAL PLAIN	e	e	e	e		e	e			e	e			?	?	e	e	e			X	e	e	e	e	e
30. SCARLET KING																				e	X	e	e	e	e	e
31. MOLE SNAKE	e	e	X	X	e	e	e			X	e	e	Ⓜ	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e
32. SCARLET SNAKE	e	e	e	e		e	e			e	e		e	e	e	X	L	e		e	X	e	e	X	e	e
33. S.E. CROWNED S.				?	?						?					?										
34. N. COPPERHEAD	e	X	X	e	e	e	X	e	X	e	X	e	X	X	e	X	X	X	e	X	X	e	e	X	e	X
35. E. COTTONMOUTH	e																			e	?					
36. PIGMY RATTLER																										
37. TIMBER RATTLER			e	e		e	X	X			e	X						e	X						X	
38. CANEBRAKE "																				e	X					

SNAKES OF VIRGINIA BY COUNTIES

(Loudoun to Rappahannock Counties)

KEY:

- X- county record
- L- literature record
- e- expected (or observed)
- ?- Does it occur ?
- ⊕ VPI collection

	Loudoun	Louisa	Lunenburg	Madison	Mathews	Mecklenburg	Middlesex	Montgomery	Nansemond	Nelson	New Kent	Norfolk	Northampton	Northumberland	Nottoway	Orange	Page	Patrick	Pittsylvania	Powhatan	Prince Edward	Prince George	Prince William	Princess Anne (Va. Beach)	Pulaski	Rappahannock
1. BROWN WATER S.								e	X	X													⊕			
2. RED-BELLIED W.								X	X	X	X	X	e										X	X		
3. NO. WATER S.	X	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	X	X	X	X	X	e	X	e	X	X	e	e	e	X	X	X	e	X
4. QUEEN SNAKE	X	e		X				e	e							e	X	X		?		e		e	e	
5. GLOSSY WATER								e		X													e	e	e	
6. NO. BROWN S.	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	X	e	e
7. N. RED-BELLIED	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
8. E. GARTER S.	X	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	X	e	X	⊕	e	X	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	X	e	X
9. E. RIBBON S.	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e
10. ROUGH EARTH S		?			e	e	e	e	e	X	e									e		e	e	e	e	
11. SMOOTH EARTH	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	X	e	e
12. MTN. EARTH S.								?																		
13. E. HOGNOSE S.	X	e	e	e	e	X	e	X	e	e	X	X	e	e	X	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e
14. S. RINGNECK								X			X												X			
15. N. RINGNECK	X	e	e	X		e	X	e	X		X		e	X	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	X	e	X
16. E. WORM SNAKE	X	e	e	X	e	X	e	e	X	X	X	X	e	e	X	e	e	X	X	e	e	e	X	X	e	X
17. RAINBOW SNAKE					e	e	e	e	e	X	e										e		e			
18. E. MUD SNAKE								X	e	X												e	X			
19. BLACK RACER	X	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	X	e	X	e	X	X	X	e	X	e	e	X	e	e	X	X	e	X
20. E. COACHWHIP																		?	?							
21. ROUGH GREEN	X	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	e	e	X	X	e	X	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	X
22. SMOOTH GREEN	e			X				e	e								X	e							e	e
23. CORN SNAKE	X	e	X	e		X	e	e	e				e	e	e	X	e	e							e	e
24. BLACK RAT S.	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	X	e	e	X	e	X	e	X	e	e	X	X	X	e	e
25. N. PINE SNAKE	?			e			e	e	e							L	e								e	e
26. E. KING SNAKE	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	X	X	e	X	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	X		X
27. BLACK KING S.								X								X									e	
28. E. MILK SNAKE	X	e	e	e	e	X	e		e	e			e	e	e								X	X	e	
29. COASTAL PLAIN	X	e	e	e	e	X	e		e	e			e	e	e	e		e	e	e	e	e	X	X	e	X
30. SCARLET KING								e				e	e										X			
31. MOLE SNAKE	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	X	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X
32. SCARLET SNAKE	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	X	e				e	e	X	e	e	X		
33. S. E. CROWNED S.								?										X	X						?	
34. N. COPPERHEAD	X	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	X	X	X	X	e	e	X	X	X	e	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
35. E. COTTONMOUTH								X			X	X										X	X			
36. PIGMY RATTLER								?			X															
37. TIMBER RATTLER	X			X					e			X				X	X								e	X
38. CANEBRAKE "								X			X											X	X			

SNAKES OF VIRGINIA BY COUNTIES

(Richmond County to York County)
Also, Maryland - Coastal Plain
Piedmont and Highlands.

KEY:

- X - county record
- L - literature record
- e - expected (or observed)
- ? - Does it occur?

	Richmond Co.	Roanoke	Rockbridge	Rockingham	Russell	Scott	Shenandoah	Smyth	Southampton	Spotsylvania	Stafford	Surry	Sussex	Tazewell	Warren	Washington	Westmoreland	Wise	Wythe	Yprk	Newport News-Hampton	Maryland: Coastal Plain Md. Piedmont Maryland Maryland highlands
1. BROWN WATER S.									X												X	X
2. RED-BELLIED W.									X												X	
3. NO. WATER S.	e	X	e	X	e	e	e	e	X	e	X	e	e	X	X	e	X	e	X	X	e	X X X
4. QUEEN SNAKE		X	e	e	e	e	X	e						e	e	e		e	e			X X X
5. GLOSSY WATER									e			e	e									
6. NO. BROWN S.	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	X X X
7. N. RED-BELLIED	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	
8. E. GARTER S.	e	e	X	e	X	e	e	X	e	e	X	e	e	X	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	X X X
9. E. RIBBON S.	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	X X X
10. ROUGH EARTH S.									e			e	e								X	-----
11. SMOOTH EARTH	e	e	e		e	e	e	e	X	X	e	e			e	e	e	e	e	e		X X X
12. MTN. EARTH S.					?	?	?							e	?	?	?					X
13. E. HOGNOSE S.	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	X X X
14. S. RINGNECK									?		?	?								e	e	X X X
15. N. RINGNECK	e	e	e	X	e	e	X	e	?	X	X	?	?	e	e	X	e	e	e			X X X
16. E. WORM SNAKE	e	X	X	X	e	e	X	e	X	e	X	e	e	X	e	e	X	e	X	X	e	
17. RAINBOW SNAKE	e								X			e	e				e			e	e	X
18. E. MUD SNAKE									e			e	X							e	?	-----
19. BLACK RACER	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	X	X X X
20. E. COACHWHIP									?													-----
21. ROUGH GREEN	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X X X
22. SMOOTH GREEN		e	L	e	e	e	e	e						e	e	e	e	e	e			X X
23. CORN SNAKE		e	e	X	e	e	X	e						e	e	e	e	e	e			X
24. BLACK RAT S.	X	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	X	e	e	X	e	e	X	e	X	X	X	X	X X X
25. N. PINE SNAKE		e	e	e	e	L	e		e					e	L	e		e	e			X
26. E. KING SNAKE	X							e	X	e	e	e					e		X	e		X X
27. BLACK KING S.				?	?	?								e			e	?				-----
28. E. MILK SNAKE		e	X	e	e	e	e							e	X	e		e	e			X X X
29. COASTAL PLAIN	e								e	e	e						e		e		?	X
30. SCARLET KING								?		?	?											-----
31. MOLE SNAKE	e									e	e				e	e			e			X X
32. SCARLET SNAKE	e									e					e	e			e		e	X
33. S.E. CROWNED S.		e	e			e	e												e			-----
34. N. COPPERHEAD	X	X	e	X	X	e	X	e	X	X	L	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	e	X		X X X
35. E. COTTONMOUTH								X			X	X									X	-----
36. PIGMY RATTLER								?														-----
37. TIMBER RATTLER		e	e	X	e	X	X	e						X	X	e		e	e			X X
38. CANEBRAKE "								e				e	e								X	-----

NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION
AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE
SNAKES OF VIRGINIA...

"Modern taxonomists deal in the identification of populations rather than of individuals. Although a person may have but one specimen it is considered as a sample of a population which is improved as other specimens become available. A person, therefore, never identifies one specimen from any given area as one subspecies, and another specimen from the same area as belonging to another subspecies. Instead, when a population includes a mixture of individuals -- some of which look like one subspecies and some exhibiting traits of another subspecies ---- the population as a whole is then labeled an intergrade population. This is a keystone of modern taxonomy."

W. Leslie Burger,
Biologist, VHS Co-founder
(Past President of VHS)

These words of advice from a friend and student of Virginian herpetofauna make a great deal of sense when you consider specimens of the various milk snakes taken in Virginia. There is little or no doubt that many specimens are intergrades between the Eastern Milk Snake of the highlands and the Coastal Plain Milk Snake. A bit further south -- in Tidewater -- the intergradation occurs with the Scarlet King Snake. It is unlikely that really typical specimens of Lampropeltis d. doliata are to be found in Virginia. The population in the southeastern Va. counties, known from several specimens, is most likely intergraded with the Coastal Plain Milk Snake. More specimens are needed.

Color Cover: Shows the Scarlet Snake which strongly resembles the Coastal Plain Milk Snake and Scarlet King Snake but which has a pure white belly.

The Coastal Plain Milk Snake illustrated here shows some traits not unmindful of the Eastern Milk Snake (L. d. triangulum). All sorts of intergradations between the Coastal Plain specimens and the Scarlet King Snake occur in the state and warrant a special study.

Fortunately, the venomous Coral Snake (Micrurus fulvius) is not found in the state.

(Artist: Ned Smith, Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries.)

EASTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKES have not been found in the Great Dismal Swamp, Va., where they may find a more suitable environment. The nearest capture, historically, was at Jackson, North Carolina, 10 to 15 miles south of the N.C.-Va. state line.

The species has been observed in Dickenson County in the southwestern highlands of Virginia well out of its normal coastal habitat and range. This species is believed to have been released by members of a religious group who handled poisonous snakes as a demonstration of their faith in God during religious services. The Diamondback, and perhaps other exotic (non-native) species may occur in SW highland counties.

NOTES ON VIRGINIAN SNAKES
(concluded)

Excellent black and white drawings of the Copperhead, Rattler, and Eastern Cottonmouth appeared in the May, 1964, VIRGINIA WILDLIFE, inside the back cover.

UNUSUAL or RARE SNAKES should be saved, alive if possible in a secure container out of the sunlight and with ventilation and provision for water. If the snake is dead, preserve in a 40% formalin solution which your local registered druggist can provide without physician's prescription. Formalin is a poison so keep out of the reach of small children. Write VHS Secretary for a copy of VHS Bulletin No. 11 on Preserving Specimens and Developing Collections by J.T. Wood, MD, first president of VHS (1958-1959).

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY should not be neglected. Preservation of rare specimens in any preservative solution brings about color changes. Take a color portrait, preferably a 2" X 2" color slide.

VHS DATA SLIPS ARE PROVIDED IN EACH VHS BULLETIN -- use them. We do not publish the details -- only the county in which the specimen was collected and by whom.

VHS MEMBERS -- THIS IS YOUR OWN SURVEY-- CONTRIBUTE TO KNOWLEDGE OF VIRGINIAN SPECIES -- LET US FURTHER REFINE OUR STATE'S LORE.

VHS welcomes all contributions to greater understanding of the state's natural history.

Roger H. deRageot, Norfolk Museum, Norfolk, Va., VHS President
James L. Chamberlain, PhD, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg.
(President-elect)
(Mrs.) Phoebe H. Knipling, PhD, 2623 Military Road, Arlington, Va. (Treas.)
Franklin J. Tobey, Jr. 4706 Tallahassee Ave., Rockville, Md. (Secretary)

Report unusual or rare reptile finds to the nearest museum, zoo, university, college or secondary school biology or zoology department. Drop a letter and data on the find to:

Virginia Herpetological Society
4706 Tallahassee Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20853

(or to the nearest VHS officer -- see list below.)

Among those places which provide a depository for preserved specimens of reptiles are:

Bridgewater College, Bridgewater
(Dr. H.G. M. Jopson)
College of William and Mary,
Williamsburg (G.R. Brooks, Jr.)
Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.
(Dr. Neil D. Richmond)
Norfolk Museum, Norfolk, Va.
(Roger H. deRageot)
U.S. National Museum, Wash., D.C.
(Dr. James A. Peters)
Randolph-Macon Woman's College
Lynchburg, Va. (Dr. Chamberlain)
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va. (Dr. Murray)
Va. Polytechnic Institute
Blacksburg, Va. (Dr. Wilder)

DO NOT COLLECT ON NATIONAL PARK OR NATIONAL FOREST PROPERTY --- REPORT UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS TO PARK RANGER OR PARK NATURALIST.

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Enclose this detachable stub with check or postal money order.

This is the last page of the VHS SPECIAL BULLETIN on Identification and Distribution of the Virginian Snakes. (See reverse for contents page.) This is not the "final word" on the subject. Much needs to be done to fill in the gaps in the state's natural history. The officers of VHS welcome the spare time assistance of all who are seriously interested in making a contribution to the refinement of this survey of Virginia snakes.

We hope the general results of the survey and forthcoming census can be made available to persons throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia who are interested.

A copy of the Special Bulletin is being sent to over 200 high school biology departments throughout the state of Virginia -- free of any obligation or charge. We do hope it brings about an interest in co-operating in the county-by-county survey of Virginian amphibians and reptiles.

EDUCATORS may be placed on the VHS mailing list for free copies of the VHS Bulletins. Write the VHS Secretary.

Copies of the VHS Special Bulletin may be purchased at 50 cents each from VHS. Send 50 cents to the VHS Treasurer for each copy. Free to new VHS members.

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