see 57-58 Turtles of Va.

VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN NUMBER 59

August-September 1968

NATIONAL ZOO MEETING AND VHS

People get around the world more these days than ever before; (see "Communications from Members".) VHS members apparently not excluded.

The need for familiarity with the appearance, habits, and distribution of reptiles and amphibians, other than native U.S. species, becomes fairly obvious.

Each year, the Society holds a meeting at the NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK (Smithsonian Institution) in Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C. Time, place, and directions to the 1968 meeting are provided below on the tear-off portion of this page.

The NZP meeting is held yearly to familiarize the membership with the Nation's finest collection of exotic (foreign) and native (U.S.) amphibians and reptiles.

Time, vigilance, and money are required to house, maintain and feed a large collection of animals of such variety. Tropical specimens require more attention and incur more expense than the ones which hail from more temperate climate.

For most of us, the zoo's reptile house and professional staff must do the job; and they do a fine one.

FJT

NZP REPTILE HOUSE MEETING WILL BE SPONSORED BY TWO SOCIETIES

For nine of VHS' ten years, we have hoped to have the NZP meeting under the joint sponsorship of two state herpetological societies. As a fitting tenth birthday tribute--we have finally succeeded in this. The feat would not have been possible without the existence of the Maryland Herpetological Society--a healthy two-year old group with headquarters in Baltimore, Md.

The VHS Secretary met with the Md. HS at a recent Baltimore meeting and invited the membership to attend, and the Society's officers to join VHS in sponsoring the '68 meeting -- and they agreed to do so. The program will be varied and interesting.

We sincerely hope that we make this a joint effort each year.

NZP MEETING PROGRAM

The meeting will be preceded by a "trading session"; bring specimens.

FILMS: Several short films are planned. Among these are: "The Poisonous Snakes of Maryland," and one on the "Seasnakes--the Hydrophidae-- of the South China Sea." Two short features on comotion and striking are to be shown if time permits. A 16 mm. sound projector will be on hand.

SLIDES: Provisions have been made for illustrating brief talks with 2"X 2" slides. One of these will augment the film on Maryland venomous snakes by illustrating the additional species in Virginia and the range of these species in Va. An automatic slide projector will be on hand. Bring slides.

"Behind-the-scenes" tour with NZP staff will close the meeting at 6.

. . . . . .

DIRECTIONS TO THE NATIONAL ZOO

The National Zoological Park may be reached from Rock Creek Parkway. The Parkway cuts through a part of the Zoo. It may also be reached by way of Connecticut or 16th -- main thoroughfares which pass near the western and eastern gates of the zoo. Once within the zoo, itself, the Reptile House is at the middle level, or halfway on the hill between Rock Creek and Connecticut Avenue NW.

The joint Md.HS-VHS Meeting will take place at the Reptile House, NZP, on:

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26, 1968

between 4 and 6 p.m. (EST.). (Any items for the program should be brought to the attention of the respective Society officers as soon as possible or, by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting.)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VHS MEMBERS:

"That Special Bulletin arrived on Friday --- and it is a great piece of work. I can appreciate that it represents the cooperation of many field workers and observers-- and it is a fine accomplishment. It was fine, too, to read the words of many former companions.

I am now living in Victoria,B.C., and I expect I shall commence gaining familiarity with the local herpetofauna. I haven't yet unpacked my herpetology books, but I soon shall be acquainted with the species we are finding. If all goes well, perhaps one day we shall see a Society developing in British Columbia with the fine potential achieved by VHS.

Best wishes to you all!"

John Thornton Wood (M.D.)
P.O. Box 846
Victoria, B.C., Canada

(Editor's Note: Dr. J.T. Wood was the first President of VHS serving in 1958 and 1959. FT)

"Well, I'm here! Quite a place. I haven't been off the Post, but since today is Saturday, I guess I'll explore a bit.

Inquired about snakes over here but haven't run into anyone who is familiar with them yet.

Flew non-stop from the States to Tokyo and then to Kimpo AFB here in Seoul, Korea.

Seoul traffic is like dowtown Washington, D.C. at 5:00 p.m. ! The rule is that if you hit someone who cuts in on you, you are at fault because you should have seen him! They love their horns. People, bicycles, oxen, 3-wheel trucks, big trucks -- you name it; it's on the road. . . .
Drop a note when you can."

(Mr.) Robert J. Gagnon
Internal Revenue Div.
OACS, Compt. 8th USA
HQ. APO-96301
SanFrancisco, Calif.

(Mr.Gagnon is a Charter member.)

- - - - - - - - - - - - - -

"I read with interest your special bulletin on Virginia Turtles, so I compiled a list of the turtles I have observed in New Kent County. . . . In the turtle list the only noteworthy thing is the presence of the Yellow-bellied Turtle (Pseudemys scripta scripta) in New Kent County. Sincerely,"

(Mr.) Neil D. Richmond
Carnegie Museum
Pittsburgh, Pa.15213

(Place an "X" in the column for New Kent County and P.s.scripta. Thanks to CM and Neil Richmond.)

AVAILABLE FROM U.S. SUP'T. DOCS.

"POISONOUS SNAKES OF THE WORLD: A Manual for Use by U.S. Amphibious Forces"--- Granville M. Moore, Ed. Dept. of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. (Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402) An identification guide to the most widely distributed species of venomous snakes. 1968; 212 pp. 8 color plates, photos, drawings, maps. Price $3.25 a copy.

(The item just above is a review appearing in the 21 September'68 Science News, Vol.94, p.296.....)

. . . . . .

THE VHS BULLETIN is a newsletter appearing at least six times a year. VHS-B#46 (roster issue) is the VHS mailing list. Special Bulletins are sent to about 200 biology teachers in Virginia's secondary schools -- two bulletins to a county.

VHS IS NON-PROFIT. It is a voluntary association of persons who are more than casually interested in the amphibians and reptiles of Virginia and the adjacent (bordering) states. The Society's objectives are scientific and educational. VHS is not a "hobby" group or "club".

VHS BULLETIN is reproduced by trainees at the George Mason Occupational Training Center, Arlington, Virginia.