

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER
Dendroica virens.

Mr. Hubbard found this species not uncommon in suitable habitat south of Grande Prairie. Of greater significance, however, is the fact that he heard several singing males in the Chetwynd-Moberly Lake area of British Columbia some 100 kilometers west of the Alberta border. He collected a male near Chetwynd on 25 June 1965. This specimen is in the collection of the University of Michigan. Munro and Cowan (1947, *A Review of the Bird Fauna of British Columbia*, B.C. Provincial Museum) give no records of the species for the province. This specimen, therefore, represents the first authenticated record of the Black-throated Green Warbler in British Columbia.

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An Unexplained Mass
Mortality of Turtles

LINDSAY's presentation of an unexplained case of ophidian mortality (1966 Canadian Field-Naturalist 80 (1): 59) has prompted this note on an observed mass mortality in a population of turtles. Although these data were not followed up with tests to determine the cause of death, they may serve to emphasize that catastrophies do happen in reptilian populations and perhaps will alert some future observer to thoroughly investigate a similar discovery.

On the afternoon of May 15, 1954 I visited a large shallow pond about one mile south of Stittsville, Carleton County, Ontario and found numbers of dead, bloated turtles floating in the water near shore. Examined at that time were Blanding's Turtle, *Emydoidea blandingi*, a large male and a small female, and Midland Painted Turtle, *Chrysemys picta marginata*, one large female and four medium sized males. The afternoon of May 19 the pond was revisited and a count of all dead turtles was taken. One

six-inch female *E. blandingi* and forty-seven *C. p. marginata* were examined. The carapace length of the latter, to the nearest half inch are tabulated below by sex.

Carapace:	3	3.5	4	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	Total
Females	7	0	2	1	5	1	9	3	1	29
Males	0	0	2	0	8	3	5	0	0	18

The *Chrysemys* exhibited relatively little morphological variation and all had a dark mid-plastral figure though on four (three females and one male, all six-inch specimens) this marking was faint. All had a narrow red line down the middle of the carapace and other characteristics were typical of *marginata*. On May 20 the pond was again examined and four additional *Chrysemys*, overlooked previously, were found, three females and one male, all six inches in shell length. This brought the total to 59 turtles; 56 *Chrysemys* (33 females, 23 males) and 3 *Emydoidea* (2 females, 1 male). No live turtles were observed on any visit, though the weather was sunny and mild on each occasion.

There were no external clues on any of the turtles to indicate how they might have died. Unfortunately, at that time I was ignorant of the services available from the Animal Diseases Research Institute, Canada Department of Agriculture, and made no effort to save any of these bloated specimens.

The pond, though devoid of reptilian life, contained active amphibians. *Pseudacris t. triseriata* (May 15, 19, 20), *Rana clamitans* (May 15, 20) and *Hyla versicolor* (May 15) were heard calling on the dates given. *Rana pipiens* were seen May 19 and 20, with about a dozen in evidence on the first date. No dead amphibians were noted at any time.

It is relatively unusual to see dead reptiles or amphibians in the field, other than road kills, and at present there is no satisfactory explanation for the observations reported here.

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