

the elk cleared the tree. Additional spots of blood were encountered in this area. The blood did not appear to be free flowing but rather was blood that was being expelled through the nostrils or deposited where the elk's muzzle had dug into the snow.

A few yards short of the kill-site the elk was still on his feet though obviously staggering. The elk then backed off at an angle a few yards, staggered forward and fell. From the point of initial physical contact to the kill-site was estimated to be about 250 yards. Along this flight path, numerous rotten stumps were broken apart and at several points the elk had plowed through thick clumps of trees. There was no indication that the elk had ever been completely down until the very end. It would appear that, after contact, the elk had bucked blindly down the hill while the cougar, hanging on its back, succeeded in hooking the elk in the muzzle, bending its head back until the neck was broken.

After feeding, the cougar retired about 100 yards from the kill and bedded down under an overhanging tree. The bed was stained with blood, presumably from the elk. Melted snow indicated the cougar had bedded down here for some time. The cougar then moved back another 100 yards where it again bedded down. There was no evidence of blood in the second bed.

The cougar's paw prints, measured about 4 inches across, suggesting the animal was not a large one. A female with two kittens had been seen in the area during the fall. This could have been the same animal although there was no evidence of young.

The kill-site was again visited on the afternoon of December 27th, eight days after the kill. Fresh cougar tracks at the site indicated the cougar had probably been feeding when we approached.

Both hind quarters of the elk had been completely eaten or removed from the site. The left front shoulder, left rib cage, lower neck and all internal organs except the stomach and intestines had been eaten. Snow had been systematically scratched onto the stomach and intestines and packed down. Only a small portion of flesh attached to the spinal column and right front shoulder remained. The neck and head were intact and completely undisturbed. Considerable quantities of dehaired skin had been eaten. A portion of leg bone about 14 inches long was found covered with twigs and debris about ten feet from the kill. Other portions may have been previously removed and covered.

The cougar continued to visit the kill-site for over a month. During this time it removed or consumed all portions of the elk except the hair and paunch.

Throughout this entire period the cougar was apparently undisturbed by the occasional vehicle on the road and the periodic visits of the observer.

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A Young Albino Snapping Turtle, *Chelydra serpentina* L., in Southern Ontario, Canada

Abstract. In the first week of September, 1970 a newly hatched albino *Chelydra serpentina* was collected along with six normally-colored ones from the same clutch of eggs in the vicinity of London, Ontario.

In the first week of September, 1970, Neil Vanbakel, son of Harry Vanbakel, R.R. 1, Dorchester, Ontario and a student in Grade 7 of St. David's School, Dorchester, located a clutch of eggs of the snapping turtle, *Chelydra serpentina* L., immediately to the south of Provincial Highway 2 about four and a half miles east of the city limits of London. They were in the soil forming the bank of a drainage ditch which flows through a culvert southward beneath Highway 2 and into Lot 12, Concession I of the north part of North Dorchester Township, Middlesex County. Shortly after 7 September the eggs hatched and Neil Vanbakel captured seven of the emerging young turtles. Six of them were normally colored, being dark brown with a light spot at the edge of each marginal scute, as described and illustrated by Conant (1958). The other turtle was much lighter.

One of the normally colored turtles and the light-colored one were given to the writer on 11 September. In both specimens the carapace was 28 mm long and the tail 30 mm long. The light-colored turtle was white over all its surface with a slight yellowish cast. The pupil of the eye of the normal turtle was black, while that of the white one was bright red, this difference in color being

particularly noticeable in the reflected light of a lamp.

Hensley (1959) defines complete albinism in amphibians and reptiles as referring to animals that exhibit no apparent melanin and that possess a pink, or red, eye-color. The white turtle discussed here falls into this category. Hensley (1959) includes two instances of albinism in *C. serpentina*, one involving a specimen hatched from a clutch of eggs found by a small boy at Windsor, Ontario and another kept alive in a museum in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The normal turtle and the albino collected by Neil Vanbakel are deposited in the collection of the Department of Zoology, University of Western Ontario.

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A Range Extension and Basking Observation of the Blanding's Turtle in Nova Scotia

Abstract. Observations in 1970 of Blanding's Turtles (*Emydoidea blandingi*), in southwestern Nova Scotia extended the range of this relict, disjunct population by approximately 15 miles to George Brook, Mersey River, two miles below the outlet of Lake Rossignol. On April 30, observation of basking at Grafton Lake is the earliest spring sighting in the area and contradicts an earlier theory of the existence of separate basking and non-basking populations.

Since its discovery in 1953, information on distribution and ecology of the disjunct, relict population of Blanding's Turtles (*Emydoidea blandingi*) in southwestern Nova Scotia has accumulated slowly (Bleakney, 1963; Powell, 1965). The following observations, made in the area in 1970 while I was Chief Park Naturalist at Kejimikujik

National Park, are additions to our knowledge of Nova Scotia populations.

On June 24, 1970, Jim Harding and Brian Purdy collected an adult female Blanding's Turtle on a gravel road at George Brook, near the Mersey River approximately two miles below the outlet of Lake Rossignol, Queens County, Nova Scotia. This is an extension by approximately fifteen miles from the previously known range, as described by Powell (1965); a triangular area between First Lake, Annapolis County, West River, Annapolis County, and Caledonia, Queens County. The specimen collected on June 24, 1970 is thought to be a female searching for (or leaving) a nest site, and further collections will probably show the range of the Blanding's in Nova Scotia to include Lake Rossignol and the numerous lakes surrounding it. The large, shallow inundated portions of Lake Rossignol should provide ideal habitat for this species.

On April 30, 1970, I observed one adult Blanding's Turtle at 2:30 p.m. basking alone on a grassy stump about twenty yards from shore on an inundated inlet at the south end of Grafton Lake, Kejimikujik National Park. The water was shallow, about three feet deep and the Blanding's quickly dove into the water when I approached.

At 2:45 p.m. on April 30, 1970 I observed two additional adult Blanding's basking on a fallen log immediately next to the shore in the same inlet of Grafton Lake as the first observation. The Blanding's were basking in close association with at least six Eastern Painted Turtles (*Chrysemys picta picta*). The log was partially covered by sedge, moss and Leather Leaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*). When I approached the turtles slowly by land, they all dove into the shallow water, but the two Blanding's Turtles reappeared amidst the emergent vegetation, mostly Leather Leaf, and stared in my direction. Only their heads were above water and they were difficult to see in the vegetation. This basking note is interesting in that it provides preliminary evidence that there are not separate non-basking populations of Blanding's on the east and west sides of Kejimikujik Lake, contrary to a suggestion by Bleakney (1963). This is also the earliest spring observation of the Blanding's in Nova Scotia.

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