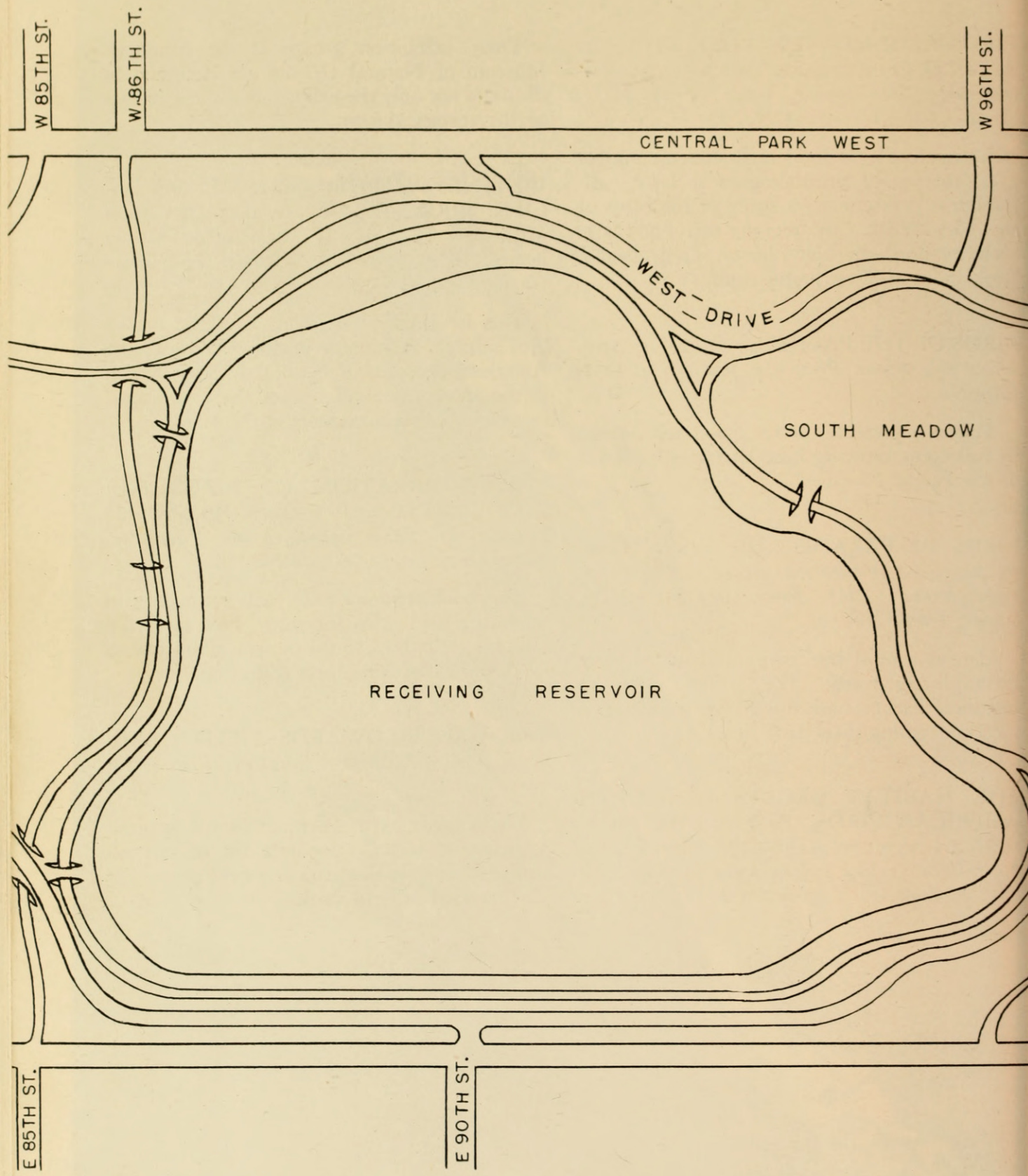
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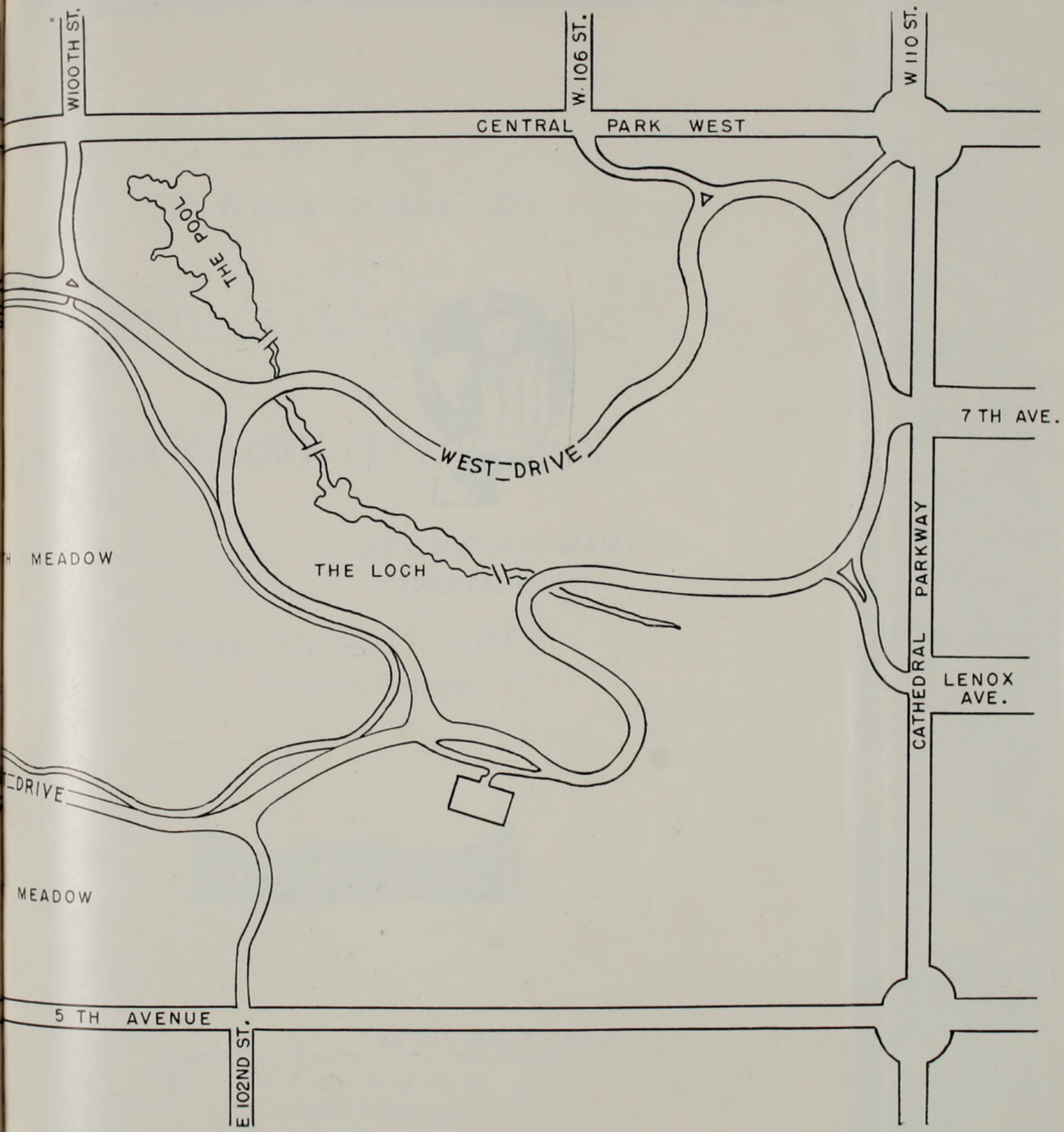
W100TH ST.
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CENTRAL PARK WEST
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5 TH AVENUE
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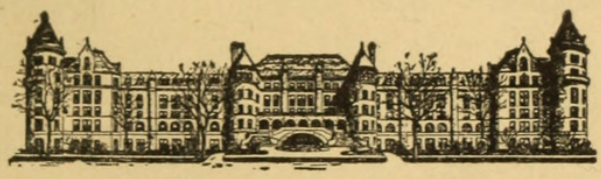
OF THE

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

OF THE

NEW YORK CITY REGION

By G. KINGSLEY NOBLE
Curator of Herpetology



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MARCH, 1929

THE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF THE NEW YORK CITY REGION

A DISTRIBUTIONAL LIST PREPARED FOR THE LINNÆAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

By G. Kingskey Noble

The reptilian and amphibian faunas found within seventy-five miles of New York City, in New Jersey, in the counties bordering the east shore of the Hudson, and on Long Island differ from one another in several particulars. The present list is prepared to call attention to these differences and to suggest gaps in our knowledge which we hope will be filled before many years by the many naturalists now in the local field.

The list is merely a preliminary statement of the general ranges of our local reptiles and amphibians. Exact locality records of practically all our species are greatly desired. It is only when they are brought together that a clear picture of the distribution of our local species can be obtained.

Information as to dates of appearance and disappearance of the species should be of interest to all observers in the local field. Observations on the habits of even the commoner species may prove of great scientific value. This is especially true of the breeding habits which are not well known even for some of our commonest form.

The number of reptiles and amphibians in the local region is not great, and their identifications should offer no difficulty. Convenient keys to the local species will be found in Pratt's "Manual of the Vertebrates of the United States" (P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia). Other useful reference books would be: Dickerson's "Frog Book," Ditmars' "Reptile Book," and Blanchard's "A Key to the Snakes of the United States, Canada, and Lower California." There is, however, no book which gives the information most needed

by the New York field naturalist—namely, a full statement of the distribution of our local species.

The following list has been critically read by the Linnæan Society Committee on Local Herpetology and also by Messrs. Wm. T. Davis, G. P. Engelhardt, S. C. Bishop and W. De W. Miller. Further information in regard to the local reptilian and amphibian faunas may be obtained from the Chairman of this Committee or from the American Museum of Natural History.

The abbreviations refer to regions within 75 miles of New York City. L. I. = Long Island, N. J. = New Jersey, and N. Y. = southern New York, exclusive of Long Island.

1. Water Newt (aquatic form), Red Eft (terrestrial form)
   Triturus viridescens (Rafinesque)
   L. I., N. J., N. Y. Red Eft stage absent from L. I. and possibly from other sandy regions.
2. Jefferson's Salamander
   Ambystoma jeffersonianum (Green)
   L. I., N. J., N. Y. Rare. Locality records desired.
3. Spotted Salamander
   Ambystoma maculatum (Shaw)
   L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.
4. Marbled Salamander
   Ambystoma opacum (Gravenhorst)
   L. I., N. J., N. Y. Not rare.
5. Tiger Salamander
   Ambystoma tigrinum (Green)
   L. I., N. J., N. Y. Rare except at certain L. I. localities.
6. Four-Toed Salamander
   Hemidactylium scutatum (Schlegel)
   L. I., N. J., N. Y. Locality records desired.
7. Red-Backed Salamander, Gray Salamander (two color phases)
   Plethodon cinereus (Green)
   L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

8. Slimy Salamander
Plethodon glutinosus (Green)
Absent from L. I.; common in N. J. and along the west shore of the Hudson, reported from Staten Island and from Westchester Co. but N. Y. records desired.

9. Purple Salamander
Gyrinophilus porphyriticus (Green)
Absent from L. I.; no definite locality records for our region but very probably found in N. J.

10. Muddy-Spring Salamander
Pseudotriton montanus (Baird)
Recorded from N. Y. Very rare.

11. Red Salamander
Pseudotriton ruber (Sonnini)
Absent from L. I.; only one N. Y. record except those from Staten Island and Rockland Co.; very common in N. J. Breeding and N. Y. records important.

12. Two-Lined Salamander
Eurycea bislineata (Green)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

13. Long Tailed Salamander
Eurycea longicauda (Green)
Only in N. J. Locality records desired as the species is known from N. Y. north of our area.

14. Dusky Salamander
Desmognathus fuscus fuscus (Rafinesque)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

15. Mountain Salamander
Desmognathus fuscus ochrophaeus (Cope)
Probably N. J. and N. Y. Additional records desired.

6. Spade-Foot Toad
Scaphiopus holbrookii (Harlan)
Common L. I.; rare elsewhere. Locality records desired.

17. American Toad
Bufo americanus Holbrook
Common N. J., N. Y., absent L. I. and Staten Island. What are its habitat preferences?

18. Fowler's Toad
Bufo fowleri Garman
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

19. Cricket Frog
Acris gryllus (Le Conte)
L. I., N. J. Only one definite N. Y. record, other than Staten Island.

20. Common Swamp Tree Frog
Hyla (Pseudacris) triseriata (Wied)
Only N. J. and Staten Island. Not common.

21. Baird's Swamp Tree Frog
Hyla (Pseudacris) feriarum (Baird)
Often confused with the preceding species. Recorded from N. J., but definite records lacking.

22. Anderson Tree Frog
Hyla andersonii Baird
Pine barrens of N. J. Not rare.

23. Spring Peeper
Hyla crucifer Wied
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

24. Gray Tree-Toad
Hyla versicolor (Le Conte)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

25. Bull Frog
Rana catesbeiana Shaw
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

26. Pond Frog, Green Frog
Rana clamitans Latreille
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

27. Pickerel-Frog
Rana palustris Le Conte
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common. Usually a mountain frog (except on Long Island). Habitat records desired.

28. Leopard-Frog
Rana pipiens Schreber
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common. Usually a salt marsh or coastal plain frog. Habitat records important.

29. Wood-Frog
Rana sylvatica Le Conte
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

30. Sphagnum-Frog, Carpenter Frog
Rana virgatipes Cope
Pine barrens of N. J. Life history information important.

31. Six-Lined Swift
Cnemidophorus sexlineatus (Linné)
Reaching the extreme southern edge of our region in N. J.

32. Fence-Lizard
Sceloporus undulatus (Latreille)
Pine barrens of N. J.; N. Y. (only three locality records); northern records desired.

33. Blue-Tailed Skink
Eumeces fasciatus (Linné)
N. J., a few N. Y. records, others desired.

34. Worm-Snake
Carphophis amoena (Say)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Rare. Records important.

35. Ring-Neck Snake
Diadophis punctatus edwardsii (Merrem)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Habitat records desired.

36. Hog-Nosed Snake, Spreading Adder
Heterodon contortrix (Linné)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common. Habitat records important.

37. Smooth Green-Snake
Liopeltis vernalis (Harlan)
Common in N. J., rare in N. Y., and L. I. Locality records important.

38. Rough Green-Snake
Opheodrys aestivus (Linné)
Pine barrens of N. J., recorded, also from L. I. Locality records very important.

39. Black-Snake
Coluber constrictor (Linné)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

40. Corn-Snake
Elaphe guttata (Linné)
Pine barrens of N. J.

41. Pilot Black-Snake
Elaphe obsoleta (Say)
N. J., N. Y. Apparently absent from L. I. Usually a mountain species. Habitat and locality records desired.

42. Pine-Snake
Pituophis melanoleucus (Daudin)
Pine barrens of N. J.; one record from N. Y.

43. King-Snake
Lampropeltis getulus (Linné)
N. J.; possibly N. Y. Locality records much desired.

44. Milk-Snake
Lampropeltis triangulum (Lacépède)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

45. ?Kirtland's Snake
Natrix kirtlandii (Kennicott)
Possibly in the extreme southern edge of our region.

46. ?Queen-Snake
Natrix septemvittata (Say)
Possibly in the extreme southern edge of our region.

47. Water-Snake
Natrix sipedon (Linné)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

48. DeKay's Snake
Storeria dekayi (Holbrook)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

49. Red-Bellied Snake
Storeria occipito-maculata (Storer)
N. J., L. I. Definite N. Y. and L. I. records desired. Rare.

50. Gray Snake
Virginia valeriae Baird and Girard
Only N. J. Locality records desired.

51. Ribbon-Snake
Thamnophis sauritus (Linné)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

52. Garter Snake
Thamnophis sirtalis (Linné)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

53. Copperhead
Agkistrodon mokasen Beauvois
N. J., N. Y., absent L. I.

54. Timber Rattlesnake
Crotalus horridus Linné
N. J., N. Y., formerly present on L. I., but now exterminated.

55. Musk Turtle
Sternotherus odoratus (Latreille)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common in clear, highland ponds, rare on L. I.

56. Mud Turtle
Kinosternon subrubrum (Lacépéde)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common on the coastal plain. Highland records desired, also habitat notes.

57. Snapper
Chelydra serpentina (Linné)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

58. Spotted Turtle
Clemmys guttata (Schneider)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.
The salt marsh specimens are distinctly rougher than the fresh water specimens.

59. Wood Turtle
Clemmys insculpta (Le Conte)
Common in N. J., rare in N. Y., probably absent from L. I., although there are several records. L. I. records very important.

60. Muhlenberg's Turtle
Clemmys muhlenbergii (Schoepff)
N. J., N. Y., absent on L. I. Locality records desired.

61. Blanding's Turtle
Emys blandingii (Holbrook)
Although this species has been recorded from L. I., it probably enters our region, only in the extreme north. Locality records desired.

62. Box Turtle
Terrapene carolina (Linné)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Very common on L. I.; not rare elsewhere.

63. Salt Water Terrapin
Malaclemys centrata concentrica (Shaw)
Coasts of L. I., N. Y., and N. J.

64. Painted Turtle
Chrysemys picta (Schneider)
L. I., N. J., N. Y. Common.

65. Red-Bellied Turtle
Pseudemys rubriventris (Le Conte)
Coastal plain of N. J. Rare. Locality records desired.

66. Green Turtle
Chelonia mydas (Linné)
Accidental off our coast.

67. Hawks-Bills Turtle
Eretmochelys imbricata (Linné)
Accidental off our coast.

68. Loggerhead Turtle
Caretta caretta (Linné)
Regular visitant to our coast.

69. Kemp's Turtle
Caretta kempii (Garman)
Regular visitant to our coast.

70. Leather-Back Turtle
Dermochelys coriacea (Linné)
Rare along our coast.

Noble, G. Kingsley. 1929. "Distributional list of the reptiles and amphibians of the New York City region." *Guide leaflet* 69, Page 1–16.

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