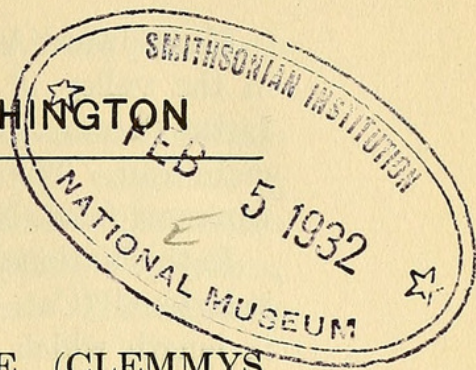


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



RECORDS OF THE WOOD TORTOISE (*CLEMMYS*  
*INSCULPTA*) IN THE VICINITY OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA.

BY AUSTIN H. CLARK.<sup>1</sup>

The wood or sculptured tortoise (*Clemmys insculpta*) reaches the southern limit of its distribution within, and in the immediate vicinity of, the District of Columbia. It is sufficiently uncommon in this region to warrant a detailed list of the captures.

It was first recorded from the vicinity of the District by Mr. Henry W. Henshaw, who took one on the Maryland shore of the Potomac near Plummerville Island on August 19, 1906 (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 20, p. 65, June 12, 1907). This specimen, according to Mr. Henshaw, was presented to the National Museum, but it can not now be located.

About 1908 Mr. Herbert S. Barber found one on Plummerville Island near the upper end which he believes he gave to Mr. William Palmer for the local exhibit in the National Museum. It is not, however, in the Museum collection.

In the album of the Washington Biologists' Field Club at Plummerville Island there is a photograph of a specimen dated April 3, 1910, which is described as the second one found in that locality. Mr. Barber says that, if he remembers correctly, this individual was liberated after being examined at the National Museum, and it, or a very similar one, was seen again the following year.

In 1918 Mr. W. L. McAtee wrote (Bull. Biol. Soc. Washington, No. 1, May 17, 1918, p. 45) that this species had been collected several times near Plummerville Island. He referred to the three (or four) mentioned above.

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Mr. Edward A. Preble found a specimen on August 25, 1918, in the valley of Pimmitt Run, Virginia, near the mouth of Little Pimmitt, or about two miles above the mouth of the main run. The head of this individual is in the National Museum (Cat. No. 61095).

In the National Museum collection there is a recently hatched individual (Cat. No. 62556) with the carapace only  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches in length which was collected by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt in the District of Columbia in 1919.

On August 9, 1922, Mr. Preble saw a good sized individual swimming in a pool in Gordon Branch, a tributary of Bullneck Run, just above the place where it crosses the Great Falls pike on the Virginia side of the Potomac. This individual escaped into a labyrinth of roots beneath an overhanging bank.

On June 14, 1925, Mr. Preble saw the remains of another that had been run over and killed on the road near the same place.

A year or two later he found one on his place near Gordon Branch, Virginia. It was in oak woods near the back of the hill. This one was brought to the house and placed in a box with the intention of photographing it and then presenting it to the National Zoological Park. But it was stolen from the box before either intention could be carried out.

In the late spring or early summer of 1928 Mr. Clarence R. Shoemaker captured a specimen on Mineshoe Island in the Potomac about three-quarters of a mile above Cabin John bridge, and just below the first lock above Cabin John.

On June 24, 1928, Mr. Barber found one on the bank of the Potomac near Black Pond on the Virginia shore about three miles from Plummerville Island. Like those which he had previously found at Plummerville Island, this one was discovered on a recently freshet-swept bank under dense woods. It is now in the National Museum (Cat. No. 76591).

In the summer of 1928 Mr. Kenneth L. Hobbs presented to the National Zoological Park an individual which had been found at Cabin John.

On May 19, 1929, Mr. Hugh U. Clark found an unusually large individual in a small shallow pond which occasionally becomes completely dry situated in open woods 2.5 miles west of Cabin John, a few hundred feet east of the underpass beneath



the canal, and between the canal and the small brook just north of it.

This specimen, a male, gave the following measurements: Length, measured around the dorsal curve of the carapace,  $9\frac{1}{8}$  inches; width across the middle of the central scale in the middle row,  $7\frac{3}{8}$  inches; circumference in the same place,  $14\frac{1}{4}$  inches; length of plastron in the median line,  $6\frac{7}{8}$  inches. This example was presented to the National Museum.

SUMMARY OF LOCALITIES.

MARYLAND: Cabin John (H. U. Clark; K. L. Hobbs); Mineshoe I. (C. R. Shoemaker); Plummers I. (H. S. Barber; Washington Biologists' Field Club; W. L. McAtee); shore of the Potomac near Plummers I. (H. W. Henshaw; W. L. McAtee [Mr. McAtee's published statement covers this and the immediately preceding records]).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: D. C. (R. W. Shufeldt).

VIRGINIA: Near Black Pond (H. S. Barber); Pimmitt Run (E. A. Preble); Gordon Branch (E. A. Preble); Near Gordon Branch (E. A. Preble).



Clark, Austin Hobart. 1930. "Records of the wood tortoise (*Clemmys insculpta*) in the vicinity of the District of Columbia." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 43, 13–15.

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