

and enter the water voluntarily. They usually swim beneath the surface, but come up readily to breathe and to take observations. They seem to be familiar with the water, and in their ease and rapidity of swimming they compare favorably with the pond turtle (*Chrysemys picta*).

On July 31, 1910, I took a photograph of nine box turtles in a group in the edge of a pond at Middle Island, where they had lain for hours. On August 15, 1915, I photographed one at the same pond nearly submerged in the water at the end of a log, and four others were in sight partly buried in the mud. I have never failed to find the turtles in that pond in midsummer whenever I have looked for them.

The amphibious nature of the Long Island box turtle is so well known to the native inhabitants that records of the fact seem commonplace. But a note in the September COPEIA, and statements in many standard natural histories, render it worth while to record the aquatic habits of the species.

FRANK OVERTON,  
*Patchogue, N. Y.*

## A NOTE ON TWO INTERESTING NEW JERSEY AMPHIBIANS.

For several summers past trips to Lakehurst, N. J., in search of the Sphagnum Frog, *Rana virgatipes* Cope, and Anderson's Hyla, *Hyla andersoni* Baird, have afforded some pleasant outings for my brother, F. K. Barbour, and myself. We have usually left our home at Rumson, N. J., in a machine, and reached Lakehurst in something less than two hours. The afternoons we have usually spent in wandering about the sphagnum bogs and along the cold spring branches which run into the lake, searching for the sphagnum frogs, which we have found at times in considerable numbers. Our observations have con-



firmed those of Davis and of other observers who have recorded their shy ways and strictly aquatic habits. I think our familiarity with *Rana gryllio*, the big frog found swimming among the "bonnets" in some of the Florida lakes, has made this frog's relationship to the New Jersey sphagnum frog seem doubly striking, for their coloration in life is astonishingly similar, and in fact one seems to be but a miniature representative of the other. At dusk we have usually taken our supper, and then waited for darkness to come on and for the Hylas to begin to sing, we have had good luck taking Hylas by the following method: One of us with an electric flashlight would start for the nearest singing Hyla, while the other usually waited some distance away. As soon as the Hyla stopped singing, the person who was not trying to approach would imitate the call of the frog, and this would start it singing again vigorously, and while it was singing the collector bearing the light would approach as quickly as possible, standing still as soon as the singing ceased. This process was kept up until finally the light flashed on the vibrating white throat of the singing Hyla, and its capture then became a perfectly simple matter, as they stared stupidly at the brilliant light.

Up to this year I have known nothing regarding the breeding habits or the time of egg-laying of these Hylas, but have assumed that it was in May, as Davis reported them singing very plentifully at that time. This year, however, we did not get down to Lakehurst until the 8th of July, when we found the Hylas singing in goodly numbers in the white cedars about the lake. After capturing a number of singing males (I had never taken a female before), my light flashed by the merest chance upon a pair of Hylas sitting well up in a pine tree, in embrace. This, and another taken in a similar situation, were the only females secured, although we took several males from the low oak scrub about a small fresh water pool in the pine



barrens. All of our catch was placed in a large-mouthed jar and brought home to Rumson alive. The next morning a number of gelatinous egg masses were found in the bottom of the jar. Since they were pretty well smashed up from the struggles which the Hylas made trying to escape, it was impossible to distinguish whether the egg masses were laid in a characteristic form. We were both much surprised to find these eggs, as we had not supposed that this Hyla laid so late in the year; yet we had always wondered why such a large number of individuals kept on singing so vigorously until at least the 20th of July. I might add that the singing begins with dark, though an occasional voice may be heard upon a lowery afternoon, and the greatest concert takes place before ten o'clock. At about this time the number of singing individuals is noticeably less.

THOMAS BARBOUR,  
Cambridge, Mass.

### AN UNUSUALLY LARGE PINE SNAKE, FROM NEW JERSEY.

The Brooklyn Museum has received recently as a gift from Mr. R. P. Dow, the skin of a Pine Snake, *Pityophis melanoleucus*, Daudin which on account of its unusually large size deserves to be placed on record. The snake was killed several years ago, on the estate of the late J. Turner Brakeley, Lakaway Plantation, Hornerstown, N. J., and at the time of capture was said to have measured seven feet, four inches. Actual measurement shows a total length of six feet and nine inches, but it is possible that on account of mutilation in the killing, part of the skin was rendered useless, for the head and neck, for a length of eight inches, have been preserved separately.

Together with the skin the Museum has received also an egg, intact and in perfect preservation, which is said to have been removed from the intestinal tract



Barbour, Thomas. 1916. "A Note on Two Interesting New Jersey Amphibians." *Copeia* 26, 5–7. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1435780>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/53398>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.2307/1435780>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/85665>

**Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

**Sponsored by**

Smithsonian

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.