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Engelhardtia is the journal of the Long Island Naturalist Society (known as the Long Island Herpetological & Ornithological Society prior to 25 March 1971). The Society is a nonprofit, educational organization devoted to the study of natural history, particularly that of Long Island and nearby regions. Members are urged to contribute suitable notes and articles for publication in Engelhardtia. Field trips to localities on Long Island and in New Jersey are sponsored by the Society. Meetings of the Society are held at the Nassau County Museum of Natural History at Seaford, Long Island.

Information on what the 1972 calendar year membership dues will be may be secured by writing to the Society.

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THE NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN ON EASTERN LONG ISLAND

The Northern Diamondback Terrapin, Malaclemys terrapin terrapin, is a denizen of salt marsh creeks and shallow bays on eastern Long Island. In the 1890's, this turtle was scarce at Orient. During that period, many fikes were set where Diamondbacks lived, and they were caught in numbers and shipped with Winter Flounders, Pseudopleuronectes americanus, to city fish markets. Fike fishing was discontinued in 1912 at Orient. Within a few years thereafter, an increase of the Diamondback was noticed. In 1915, turtles from four to six inches in size were observed in groups in Tom Browns Creek at Orient. The Diamondback reached its peak of abundance at Orient about 1924, and this peak continued to around 1950. Since then, the numbers of Diamondbacks have dwindled somewhat. The bulk of the Diamondbacks observed during the increase were small turtles with carapaces of three to five inches. The large females of seven to eight inches were less abundant.

Rarely, a female a fraction of an inch over eight inches was recorded. Although I had previously reported the largest Diamondback from Orient measured 8-1/2 inches (Latham, 1968), a more recent investigation of my notes revealed that a nine-inch female had been taken on 2 June 1938 at Orient.

At Orient, Diamondbacks hibernate in the vertical sides of small tidal creeks in the far upper ends of salt marshes, 200 to 400 yards from a bay. They enter the banks above the water level. Except for occasional individuals stirring during mild weather in winter, they do not appear before April. Large females are virtually the only ones found out in winter. All the Diamondbacks are out in April. When they appear in April, they seek shallow saltwater pools and bask in the sun where the water is only a few inches deep; their shells only partially submerge. They remain in the shallow, warm water for several days before moving down creeks to feed and wander. Those that venture out in winter move into deeper water at once and swim or float near the surface; most of them become chilled and perish and are washed ashore dead or inactive and are discovered by predatory animals. A six-inch Diamondback was found on a beach at Orient on 19 January 1957. This turtle was alive but too benumbed to move, and two Common Crows, Corvus brachyrhynchos, were picking at it. The birds succeeded in carrying it to a nearby wood lot and picked it to death. Foxes, raccoons, rats, and mice chew on the cold turtles. I once saw an Opossum, Didelphis marsupialis, try to eat one.

The Diamondback was not eaten by people at Orient, but they were quite valuable in fish markets. Specimens measuring seven to eight inches and weighing three to three and a half pounds sold for \$4.50 to \$6.00 each in the Fulton Fish Market in New York City in the 1920's. The price of an adult Diamondback was as much or more than that of a fifty-pound Atlantic Loggerhead, Caretta caretta caretta, in the same market.

Horseshoe Crabs, Limulus polyphemus, are commonly chopped up and used for eel bait in eel pots. Small Diamondbacks enter the traps and feed on the crabs. Diamondbacks eat algae and small mollusks, such as mud snails and cockle clams. They also devour large hard-shelled clams and big whelks when these mollusks are broken open and left on underwater flats.

Dr. Sherman C. Bishop considered Long Island Diamondbacks to represent two varieties and asked me for specimens to study. I sent him a large series, but he died before he had completed his studying of my material. At Orient, there is considerable variation in the immature individuals, but the larger adults of seven to eight inches show less variation.

The following records are based on data in my field notes: 14 June 1921, seven-inch female, Peconic Inlet, Peconic; 11 June 1923, an eight-inch female deposited nine eggs, vicinity of Mattituck Creek, Mattituck; 16 June 1927, two adults found chopped up in eel pots for bait, Orient; 20 March 1932, 8-3/4 inch

female found in a bay, Orient; 28 March 1933, 2-1/4 inch specimen, Gull Pond, Greenport; 24 February 1941, eight-inch female of three pounds swimming in a bay, Orient; 8 June 1944, six individuals, salt creek on Mashomack Point, Shelter Island; 2 April 1945, eight-inch female of 3-1/2 pounds trapped in a fish trap, Orient; 19 April 1949, large adult swimming in a bay, Orient; 23 May 1950, one of 1-7/8 inches recorded from a group of about 25 of nearly the same size, small area of Tom Browns Creek, Orient; 23 October 1952, eight-inch female of three pounds blinded in one eye earlier in its life but otherwise in good condition, Orient; 27 April 1954, eight-inch female collected, Orient; 1 January 1956, eight-inch female swimming in a bay, Orient; 1 February 1957, eight-inch female swimming in a bay soon died because of chilling, Orient.

LITERATURE CITED

Latham, Roy. 1968. Notes on the Northern Diamondback Terrapin at Orient, Long Island. *Engelhardtia* 1: 18.

----- ROY LATHAM, Orient, Long Island, New York 11957.

SOME HERPETOLOGICAL RECORDS FROM ACADIA NATIONAL PARK, MAINE

Most of Acadia National Park is located on Mount Desert Island, a seacoast island about 12 miles southeast of Ellsworth, Maine. The island is about 20 miles long and 16 miles wide and is divided into east and west portions by Somes Sound. All of the records given in this report were noted on the east half of the island on our trip during August 1971.

Two Green Frogs, Rana clamitans melanota, and three adult Eastern Garter Snakes, Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis, were seen on the west shore of Jordan Pond, near the Jordan Pond House, on 24 August.

On 25 August, an adult Green Frog was seen in a swamp behind a beaver dam. This was located across the Ocean Parkway from Precipice Trail on Champlain Mountain. Two additional adults were seen along the east shore of Bubbles Pond on the same date. One of those was sitting amid the debris of a beaver dam.

Two Eastern Smooth Green Snakes, Opheodrys vernalis vernalis, were seen along the edge of a small swamp on a trail just below and south of the Beehive, a prominent rock peak near Sand Beach, on 26 August.

The next day (27 August), six Green Frogs and a like number of Pickerel Frogs, Rana palustris, were seen at a beaver dam north of the Sieur de Monts Spring, a local landmark. Another Pickerel Frog was seen in the Sieur de Monts Nature Area on the same day.

Relatively little has been published about the herpetology of Maine, and it is hoped that the above data will add worthwhile information to the scant literature about that state even though the records given are of common species.

----- JOHN M. BURNLEY and STEPHANIE A. RAHA; 296 Jerome Avenue, Carle Place, Long Island, New York 11514, and 628 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, Long Island, New York 11714.