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Boston Society of Natural History

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July 1, 1919

Mr. Walter Deane,
Shelburne, N.H.

Dear Walter:-

It was very thoughtful of you to send us the large toad, which arrived blinking and happy this morning. I have turned him over to Dr. Cushman for the museum, and he tells me it will be welcome for the locality. It is the Common American Toad, Bufo americanus, distinguished from Fowler's Toad by the speckled belly and other characters (which I am not very sure of), including the lack of a black chin. This species goes very far north: Townsend and I got one in southern Labrador and it is said to reach Hudson Bay. I have met with it in the woods on the White Mountains very far up on Mt. Washington, near timber line, and these old toads sometimes grow to a large size. Fowler's Toad is more southern and I am not sure that it reaches New Hampshire, though I have heard its characteristic song slightly north of Boston. It breeds in June here, while the Common Toad lays its eggs in April. The tadpoles change into little toadlets in early summer and sometimes you may find them in numbers hopping about the edges of ponds from which they must recently have come.

I hope you are having a very pleasant summer. Sarah and I went for a day's outing to Concord last week and called at Mr. Brewster's but he was out. I stopped a second to see his bat colony. I wonder how the bats at Shelburne are. Please keep watch of them! With love from us all
Glover M. Allen



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