598
K75

3 1761 05289062 1

QL
653
N4K7

Presented to the

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LIBRARY

by the

ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE
LIBRARY

1980

THE TURTLES, SNAKES, FROGS,

and other Reptiles and Amphibians

of NEW ENGLAND and the NORTH

BRADLEE WHIDDEN, PUBLISHER. 18 ARCH ST. BOSTON.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2008 with funding from
Microsoft Corporation

<http://www.archive.org/details/turtlesnakesfro00knobuoft>

29448

The Turtles, Snakes, Frogs

AND OTHER REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

OF NEW ENGLAND AND THE NORTH

BY EDWARD KNOBEL

BOSTON: PUBLISHED BY BRADLEE WHIDDEN

zoology.

Copyright, 1896,
by
E. KNOBEL.

INTRODUCTION.

Many of the animals mentioned in this book suffer from our prejudices far more than any other class. They are usually little known, but persecuted, feared, hated and ruthlessly destroyed wherever found.

Foremost, the snakes: these timid, watchful, silent and most graceful beings are for the most part perfectly harmless. Even the dangerous ones only use their terrible weapons in self-defence.

Turtles and frogs are often regarded as if void of feeling and ruthlessly tortured. Toads and salamanders, useful insect-destroyers, are truly homely to look at, but hiding under ground or beneath stones seem to try their best not to hurt our feelings.

With a little acquaintance the student will find them useful, harmless creatures, fully deserving our sympathies.

The Latin names and some details are taken from D. S. Jordan's "*Manual of Vertebrate Animals*," and from specimens at the Agassiz Museum, Cambridge.

NOTE.- Where range of species is given, as Western or Southern, it is inferred to mean outside of New England.

Key to the Species.

Body enclosed in a shell	Turtles.
With walking feet: shell hard:	
Plain gray, brown or black	Figs. 1 to 7
Marked with colored stripes or spots	8 to 14
Shell soft, leathery	15 to 16
With swimming feet, like paddles	17
Body covered with scales:	
Four legs; or if not, the neck as wide as head	Lizards.
No legs; neck narrower than head	Snakes.
Spotted or barred	1 to 12
Striped lengthwise	13 to 21
Plain	22 to 26
Ring around neck	27
Body covered with skin only:	
No tail, when adult	Frogs.
Green	1, 2, 3
Brown, yellowish or gray	4 to 14
With tail	Salamanders.

TURTLES. *Testudinata.*

1. Snapping Turtle. *Chelydra serpentina.*

Length, twenty-four inches ; dull blackish-brown, often covered with moss ; head, large ; eyes, near together, looking upwards ; neck beset with warts ; plates of shield with slightly embossed lines and showing ridge of backbone ; hind edge of shield with large saw like teeth ; lower shield, small ; tail crested with horny large teeth.

Found in waters everywhere ; rarely on land, except in breeding time.

2. Alligator Snapper. *Macrochelys lacertina.*

Length, forty inches ; like No. 1, but eyes far apart, looking sideways : plates of shield smooth, with an elevation on upper hind corner, forming three ridges on back. Very strong and ferocious.

Western and Southern.

3. Wood Turtle. *Chelopus insculptus.*

Length, eight inches ; dark reddish-brown, with oyster-shell-like embossed lines ; yellow-orange beneath, each plate having a black blotch in the outside corner.

4. Mud Turtle. *Kinosternon pennsylvanicum.*

Length, four inches ; similar to No. 1 ; head with lighter spots ; shield smooth, and shows no backbone ridge ; no teeth on hind edge ; lower shield large, and can close the shell with it.

Southern.

5. Musk Turtle. *Aromochelys odoratus.*

Length, six inches ; black, head with two yellow stripes on each side ; shield smooth, but shows ridge of back bone, yellowish underneath. Emits a strong odor of musk.

6. Keeled Turtle. *Aromochelys carinatus.*

Like No. 5, but plates overlapping each other ; dusky, marked with black edges and lines ; no stripes on head. Southern and Western.

7. Salt Marsh Turtle. TERRAPIN, DIAMOND BACK. *Malaclemmys palustris*.

Length, ten inches; ashy brown, with black engraved lines on shield, and specks on head, neck and legs: face, horn color, orange underneath.

Highly esteemed for food. Southern.

8. Map Turtle. *Malaclemmys geographicus*.

Length, six inches; blackish-brown, with rusty irregular lines; lower jaw with spoon-like tip. Western.

9. Hieroglyphic Turtle. *Pseudemys hieroglyphica*.

Length, six inches; blackish, with yellow worm-like marks; head with yellow stripes.

Western.

10. Painted Turtle. *Chrysemys picta*.

Length, eight inches; dark-bluish or greenish-gray; each plate lighter edged; middle and side plates in one row. edge of shield, sides and underneath ornamented with red and yellow lines; smooth.

11. Edged Turtle. *Chrysemys marginata*.

Like No. 10, but plates of shield alternating as usual, and side plates with embossed lines. Western.

12. Spotted Turtle. *Chelopus guttatus*.

Length, four-and-a-half inches; black, with round yellow-orange spots, irregularly scattered; shield, very convex; no backbone ridge.

13. Speckled Turtle. *Emys melegris*.

Length, eight inches ; black, with somewhat regularly dispersed, irregular, yellowish specks
Southern and Western.

14. Common Box Turtle. *Cistudo carolina*.

Length, ten inches ; reddish dark-brown, with yellowish buff markings and dots ; variable in design. Southern.

15. Soft-shelled Turtle. *Aspideronectes spinifer.*

Length, sixteen inches ; olive, mottled with darker ; front of shield beset with warts ; head, striped.
Western

16. Leather Turtle. *Amyda mutica.*

Length, twelve inches ; like No. 15, but no warts on shield and no stripes on head.
Western.

17. Logger-head Turtle. *Thalassochelys caretta*.

Reaches a weight of 450 pounds; greenish-black. Found in the open sea and also near Europe.

LIZARDS. *Lacertilia.*

1. Blue-tailed Lizard. *Eumeces fasciatus.*

Length, ten inches ; dark olive or reddish-brown, with five yellow stripes ; tail, bright blue, white underneath.

2. Six-striped Lizard. *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus.*

Length, eight inches ; brown, with three yellow and black lines on each side.

3. Glass Snake. *Ophisaurus ventralis.*

Length, twenty-five inches ; greenish-brown, sides yellowish ; no legs ; tail very fragile.

4. Common Lizard. SWIFT. *Sceloporus undulatus.*

Length, seven inches ; green or bronze, with black bands above ; throat and belly, blue and black. All are rare in New England, but found in the West and South.

SNAKES. *Ophidia.*

1. Rattlesnake. *Crotalus horridus (durissus).*

Length, sixty inches : stout ; light gray-brown, with three rows of red brown, dark-brown or black spots, more or less confluent ; sometimes spots blurr, forming zigzag bands or broad cross bars ; head, broad and triangular ; forehead covered with scales not larger than those of the back ; the upper jaw with two large fang teeth containing the poison ; last joints of tail horny and flat, forming the rattles ; end of tail blunt.

2. Massasauga. PRAIRIE RATTLESNAKE. *Sistrurus catenatus.*

Length, thirty inches ; blackish-brown, with seven rows of black and yellow-edged chestnut-colored square spots ; forehead covered with larger plates or scales than those of neck ; upper jaw with poisonous fang teeth ; rattles small.

Western and Southern.

3. Copperhead. *Agkistrodon contortrix*.

Length, forty inches ; hazel-brown, top of head copper-color ; back, with black spots spreading on the sides ; belly, yellowish, with black spots ; forehead covered with larger plates or scales than those of neck ; poisonous fang-teeth in the upper jaw ; tail ending in a horny point with no rattles.

Western and Southern,

4. Deaf or Spreading Adder. BLOWING VIPER. *Heterodon platyrhinus*.

Length, thirty inches: light gray-brown with reddish-brown or black spots, sometimes almost black.

Does not try to get away like most snakes, but spreads itself out flat on the ground, thus appearing double its size, and hisses. A very ugly looking snake, but said not to be dangerous, having no poisonous fang teeth.

5. Hog-nosed Snake. *Heterodon simus*.

Length, thirty inches; yellowish-brown, with more spots on back than the preceding.

Western and Southern.

6. **Milk Snake.** SPOTTED ADDER. *Ophibolus. doliatus triangulus.*

Length, fifty inches ; gray, with red-brown black-bordered blotches ; belly black, or white with square black spots.

7. Pine Snake. BULL SNAKE. *Pituophis melanoleucus*.

Length, sixty inches: white, with black and brown markings. Southern and Western

8. Pine Snake. *Pituophis sayi*.

Length, sixty inches: chestnut-brown, with many orange spots: sides, black and orange. Western.

9. Water Snake. *Tropidonotus sipedon*.

Length, fifty inches ; back and sides, black and deep red-brown, with gray blotches ; belly, dirty white, with red and black spots. The pattern of both sides does not match on the back. A fierce fighter, but said not to be poisonous.

10. Western Water Snake. *Tropidonotus rhombifer*.

Length, fifty inches ; brown, with square black blotches on the back. Western.

11. Fox Snake. *Coluber vulpinus*.

Length, sixty inches ; light brown, with square dark-brown blotches.

12. Kirtland's Snake. *Tropidoclonium kirtlandii*.

Length, sixteen inches ; reddish-brown, with four rows of round black spots ; belly, reddish, with two rows of black dots ; head, black.
Western.

13. **Striped Snake.** GARTER SNAKE. *Eutania sirtalis*.

Length, thirty-six inches ; grayish-black, with three light-yellow stripes, and three rows of small black spots on each side.

14. Western Striped Snake. *Eutainia radix*.

Length, twenty-five inches ; greenish-black, with three narrow yellow stripes and six rows of dots on each side. Western.

15. Western Striped Snake. *Eutainia proxima*.

Length, thirty-five inches ; black ; back stripe, brown ; side blackish, with greenish stripe. Western.

16. Fairey's Striped Snake. *Eutainia faireyi*.

Length, thirty inches ; black, with three greenish stripes ; black below side stripes ; body, stout. Western.

17. Riband Snake. *Eutainia saurita*.

Length, thirty inches ; brown, with three yellow stripes ; body, slender ; colors bright ; very agile.

18. Queen Snake. *Regina leberis.*

Length, twenty-four inches ; chestnut brown, with three black lines on back and a yellow stripe on sides ; belly, yellow, with four rows of black dots.

19. Graham's Queen Snake. *Regina grahami.*

Length, twenty inches ; brown ; a paler stripe on back and no spots on belly ; otherwise like No. 18. Western.

20. De Kay's Snake. *Storeria dekayi.*

Length, twelve inches; gray-brown; a light stripe with two rows of black dots on the back; light-gray on belly.

21. Red-bellied Snake. *Storeria occipito maculata.*

Similar to above, but belly reddish, and three pale blotches back of the head.

22. Pilot Snake. *Coluber obsoletus*.

Length, sixty inches ; deep, dull black ; some scales, with white edges ; belly, slate color ; rough.

23. Black Snake. RACER. *Bascanion constrictor*.

Length, sixty inches ; shining blue-black ; belly, greenish ; throat, white. When young, brownish-gray with black blotches.

24. Grass Snake. *Liopeltis vernalis.*

Length, twenty inches ; bright green ; belly, yellowish. One of the handsomest of snakes.

25. Brown Snake. *Haldea striatula.*

Length, ten inches ; reddish-gray ; belly, reddish ; head long and neck narrow. Western.

26. Ground Snake. *Cerphophiops amoenus.*

Length, twelve inches ; shining chestnut-brown ; belly, reddish ; head very small.

27. Ring-Necked Snake. *Diadophis punctatus*.

Length, fifteen inches; violet-black; belly, orange, with a small black dot on each scale; light-orange ring around neck.

FROGS. *Salientia.*

1. Bull Frog. *Rana catesbiana.*

Length, five to eight inches : head, bright green ; back, greenish-black with faint black spots ; ear-drum larger than eye ; folds from eye on sides of back very faint.

Well known by his large size and bull-like voice.

2. Green Frog. *Rana clamata*.

Length, three to four inches ; face, green ; back, greenish or brown, with larger specks ; sides with irregular black spots ; ear-drum as large as eye ; fold from eye along sides of back, large and prominent ; underside, white, yellow on throat.

3. Leopard Frog. *Rana virescens*.

Length, three inches ; green, with large white-edged black spots ; white underneath ; ear-drum smaller than eye. Very bright and handsomely colored.

4. Wood Frog. *Rana sylvatica*.

Length, two inches ; bright reddish-brown with black bands from nose to arm, also on arms and legs. Legs very long ; leaps six or eight feet.

5. Cambridge Frog. *Rana cantabrigensis*.

Length, two inches ; similar to the Wood Frog, but legs shorter ; pale brown, a few black spots on lower part of back.

6. **Spotted Frog.** *Rana areolata.*

Length, three inches; brown, with light-edged large black spots, largest behind; head, flat and broad. Western and Southern.

7. **Northern Frog.** *Rana septentrionalis.*

Length, two-and-a-half inches; brown, with lighter vermiculations; no black band from nose to arm; pale underneath.

8. Pickerel Frog. *Rana palustris*

Length, two-and-one-half inches; brown, with large square black spots; belly, white, hind legs, yellow underneath.

9. Cricket Frog. *Acris gryllus*.

Length, one-and-one half inches; head, green; back, brown, with a reddish line in the middle and three light-edged black spots on each side; legs, very long.

10. Swamp Tree Frog. *Chorophilus triseriatus*.

Length, one inch ; ash-gray, with dark stripes. In swampy ground, rarely in trees.

11. Pickering's Tree Frog. *Hyla pickeringii*.

Length, one inch ; yellowish brown, with blackish stripes and spots ; round pellets on the points of fingers and toes. The early "peeper" of spring-time. Found in all wet places.

12. Common Tree Toad. *Hyla versicolor*.

Length, two inches ; skin, very rough ; greenish, bluish or brownish-gray, with brown or black irregular blotches ; yellow underneath ; large round pellets on the points of fingers and toes. The loud "rattler" of damp spring nights.

13. **Common Toad.** *Bufo lentiginosus.*

Length, three-and-a-half inches; gray and brown; skin very rough and warty when old. The young less rough, and more distinctly marked.

14. **Spade-Foot Toad.** *Scaphiopus holbrooki.*

Length, three inches; brownish-olive, yellowish on sides; soles of hind-feet with a black horny nail. A noisy whistler in spring.

SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS. *Urodela.*

1. Newt. EVET, EFT. *Diemyctylus viridescens.*

Length, three-and-one-half inches ; greenish or reddish-brown : light-yellow underneath ; row of red dots on sides, and small black dots on belly ; tail, flat. Aquatic.

2. Red Newt. *Diemyctylus miniatus.*

Length, three-and-one-half inches : similar to above, but bright red. Under stones on land.

3. Spring Newt. *Desmognathus fusca.*

Length, four inches ; blackish-brown, with gray spots ; marbled underneath. Common in springs : very lively.

4. **Striped Saiamander.** *Spelerpes bilineatus.*

Length, three inches ; yellow, with a dark stripe on each side ; belly not spotted ; tail as long as body.

5. **Cave Salamander.** *Spelerpes longicauda.*

Length, five inches ; orange-yellow, with black spots ; tail much longer than body. Found in subterranean caves.

6. **Red Salamander.** *Spelerpes ruber.*

Length, six inches ; bright-red with many dark spots ; tail round, not longer than body.

7. **Purple Salamander.** *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus.*

Length, six inches ; purplish or yellowish-brown, with irregular gray blotches. Found in mountain brooks.

8. Red-backed Salamander. *Plethodon erythronotus.*

Length, three-and-one-half inches ; gray-brown, with a red stripe along the back ; slender. Quite common.

9. Stout Salamander. *Plethodon glutinosus.*

Length, six inches ; black, with bluish-gray spots and specks ; stouter than No. 8. Terrestrial.

10. Four-toed Salamander. *Hemidactylium scutatum.*

Length, two-and-one-half inches ; brown, white underneath, with black spots ; four toes on hind feet. Southern.

11. Dark Blunt-nosed Salamander. *Amblystoma opacum.*

Length, three-and-one-half inches ; black, with fourteen blue-gray crossbars ; belly, dark-blue. Western and Southwestern.

12. Tiger Salamander. *Amblystoma tigrinum.*

Length, eight inches ; dark brown, with yellow crossbars and blotches ; body, thick and strong.

13. Spotted Salamander. *Amblystoma punctatum.*

Length, six inches; black, with a row of large, round yellow spots on each side and legs. Common under stones.

14. Jefferson's Salamander. *Amblystoma jeffersonianum.*

Length, six inches; blackish-brown or lead-color, with bluish-white spots; head small and body slender. Western.

15. Mud Puppy. WATER DOG. *Necturus maculatus.*

Length, twenty-four inches; brown, spotted; bright-red gills in three tufts on each side. Aquatic. Western and Southern.

For collectors who wish to preserve specimens: Fill a glass bottle or fruit jar with water, putting in as much white salt as the water will dissolve. Then put in your animal and close tight. Some specimens will discolor the water at first and this requires a change of water after a few months. If not exposed to direct sunlight the specimen will hold its natural colors for years.

0
45
2
care

To facilitate the Study of the Natural History of the North.

1. Guide to Trees and Shrubs.
2. The Ferns and Evergreens.
3. Day Butterflies and Duskflyers.
4. Beetles of New England and their Kind.
5. The Night Moths of New England.
6. Fresh-water Fishes of New England.
7. Turtles, Snakes, Frogs and other Reptiles.
8. Mosquitoes and Flies of the North.

Each Fully Illustrated. Oblong, paper, net 50 cents. Cloth, net 75 cents. Other interesting volumes in preparation.

Some Extra Good Books.

"EVERY BIRD." By Reginald Heber Howe, Jr.	Fully Illustrated	-	-	-	\$1.00
GAME BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA. By Frank A. Bates.	Illustrated	-	-	-	1.00
SPARROWS AND FINCHES OF NEW ENGLAND. By C. J. Maynard.	Colored Plates	-	-	-	1.50
KEY TO THE WATER-BIRDS OF FLORIDA. By Chas. B. Cory.	Illustrated	-	-	-	1.75
GOODALE'S WILD FLOWERS OF AMERICA. 51 Colored Plates	-	-	-	-	7.50
EATON'S FERNS OF NORTH AMERICA. 81 Colored Plates. 2 Vols.	-	-	-	-	40.00
BRITTON & BROWN'S ILLUSTRATED FLORA OF THE NORTHERN U. S.	3 Vols.	-	-	-	9.00
CHAPMAN'S FLORA OF THE SOUTHERN STATES. New Edition	-	-	-	-	4.00

IN PORTIA'S GARDENS. By Wm. Sloane Kennedy	-	-	-	-	-	1.50
MOths AND BUTTERFLIES OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA. By S. F. Denton	-	-	-	-	-	40.00

BRADLEE WHIDDEN, PUBLISHER AND BOOKSELLER, 18 Arch Street, Boston, Mass.

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE
CARDS OR SLIPS FROM THIS POCKET

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARY

Q1
83
1117

1010, 1112

The turtles, snakes, lizards
and other reptiles and amphibians
of New England and the
North

111111.