

**NORTHERN OCCURRENCE OF HOG-NOSED SNAKE IN ONTARIO.**—On August 25th, 1929, while paddling with W. E. Saunders and E. M. S. Dale up a narrow channel which connects Nogonosh Lake with Smoky Lake in Parry Sound district, Ontario, we were surprised to come upon a Hog-nosed Snake (*Heterodon contortrix*) swimming leisurely across the channel. We lifted the reptile into the canoe and brought it ashore. It appeared to be quite normal and active, coiling and striking with the usual blowing sound. Apparently it had left the low-lying shore of the channel to cross to the higher rocky ground. Its length was about 24 inches. This is, I believe, a very northern occurrence for this species.—STUART L. THOMPSON.

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**THE MASSASAUGA (*Sistrurus catenatus*) IN WELLAND COUNTY, ONTARIO.**—There is a very extensive bog, variously known as the "Huckleberry Marsh" and the "Big Peat Bog" lying about 3½ miles west of Port Colborne. This marsh has a sinister reputation locally as the home of rattlesnakes, which are apparently frequently seen and killed by huckleberry pickers. Mention of this place is made by Mr. W. J. Leroy in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, 44:20, 1930.

On June 12, 1927, the writer visited this bog and saw a small rattler only about 200 feet north of the highway. It was about 18 inches in length and was lying coiled on a tussock of grass. As it was approached it sounded its rattle and disappeared in the woods. This particular day was evidently a favourable one for observing snakes, being sunny, but with a cold wind. Within quite a small area several snakes were to be seen, sunning themselves on logs and tussocks. Near where the rattler had been seen were two large Milk Snakes and a Garter Snake. Under the log on which the Milk Snakes had been lying two more Garter Snakes were found. When these Milk Snakes were disturbed they vibrated the tips of their tails rapidly, making quite a loud sound.

The Marsh was explored, in company with Mr. Leroy, on August 15, 1928, but only one Garter Snake was found. However, the particular spot where I had seen the Rattler was inaccessible by road, which was under repair. On this occasion

an American Egret was observed, on the northern border of the marsh.

Professor W. T. MacClement, of Queen's University, and I revisited the exact locality where the first specimen had been seen and were fortunate enough to find another Massasauga in practically the same spot as that of five years previously. It was of about the same size, also. This snake was captured by holding it down with the handle of a butterfly net, while a quart fruit jar was slipped over its head and gradually closed behind the body. It was shown to Mr. Leroy at Toronto, who said that the light markings on the back were of a much more yellow tint than those of specimens from other parts of the province and that this seemed to be characteristic of those Massasaugas from Welland County, which he had seen. The specimen was eventually preserved at Queen's University Museum.—W. E. HURLBURT, *Vineland, Ontario*.

In a subsequent letter Dr. Hurlburt says:—"In regard to my observations on the Milk Snake vibrating its tail, contained in my article on the Massasauga, there is no doubt a noise was produced. This may have been from contact with grass, leaves, &c., but this long afterward I cannot recollect the exact position of the snakes when I heard the noise. When I first saw these snakes they were on a log. As I approached they went under the log and I turned it over and caught one of them. It may have been after I turned the log over that they vibrated their tails. Such being the case, there would no doubt be enough loose material near by for them to strike.—W. E. HURLBURT."—Ed.

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**ANOTHER BIRD-EATING FROG.**—Mr. P. A. Taverner's note in the November, 1933, *Canadian Field-Naturalist* recalls another instance to add to the collection of Frog notes:

On August 7, 1930, an immature Junco was found fluttering against the inside of a window in the Lake Mohonk Mountain House, Mohonk Lake, N. Y. It was banded and released but repeated six times in nearby traps during the next two weeks. On August 21 the attention of some of the guests was attracted by a commotion in a small stone-walled fountain pool in front of the Mountain House. Investigation showed it to be caused by the struggles of a frog which had





Hurlburt, W. E. 1934. "The Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*) in Welland County, Ontario." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 48(3), 55–55.

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