

Though sheep raisers generally feel that the tests are absolutely necessary, many are suspicious. William Simms, president of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers group recently asked: "Who is going to be out there to put this repellent on the lamb when it is born? The mother?"

But the Interior Department strongly defends predation-control research as "desperately needed." Jack Berryman, director of Interior's Wildlife Service Division said that "We can have coyotes in abundance and we can protect the sheep industry. We don't have to make that choice."



Are you willing to spend an 8-cent stamp for conservation? If so, complete and mail the questionnaire in this issue.

## Additional Records of the *BULL SNAKE from Alberta*

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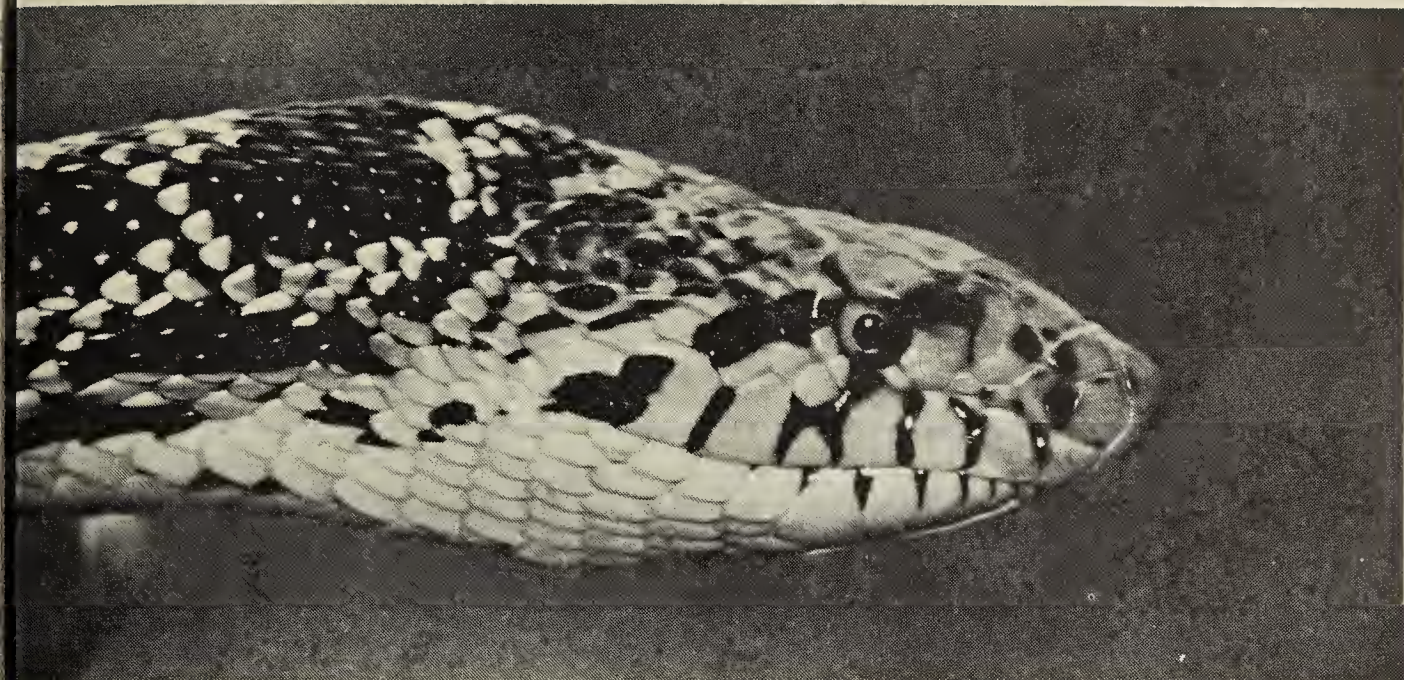
It is generally well known that the range of the Bull Snake extends into Alberta.<sup>1 2 3 4 6</sup> In spite of this, very few specific locations have been recorded in the literature and the distribution of this snake in the province is yet to be well defined.

The occurrences plotted in Figure 1 are based on several sources of information including (1) published records,

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(2) specimens in various museums, (3) specimens captured by the writer and (4) specimens captured by others and brought to the attention of the writer.

While Bull Snakes are most common in the southeastern corner of the province, they are not restricted to that region. The species occurs as far west as Lethbridge and as far north as Hanna. The majority of records, however, fall within the range outlined for the species by Stebbins.<sup>5</sup>



Bullsnake at Mankota, Sask.

Fred Lahrman

Previously unpublished locality records from within this area include: Comrey, Dinosaur Provincial Park, Lost River Valley northwest of Onefour, Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park (personal communication: F. R. Cook, December 12, 1972); Manyberries, Pinhorn Grazing Reserve (personal communication: M. J. Hampson, July 12, 1972); Schuler (oral communication: R. Vervloet); and specimens seen by the writer 16 km (10 mi) east of Tilley on the Trans-Canada Highway, 13 km (8 mi) north of Medicine Hat, 19 km (11.8 mi) north-

northeast of Medicine Hat and 5 km (3 mi) west-southwest of Redcliff. In addition, Bull Snakes are not uncommon in parts of the Cypress Hills (oral communication: local resident).

The writer has recently learned of other localities where Bull Snakes have been found in Alberta. Some of these are worthy of note, particularly as they extend the range of the species a considerable distance to the northwest.

Live specimens have been seen on the banks of Nose Creek, 2 km (1.2 mi) west of the Calgary International Airport, during the summer of 1969, on the banks of Sheep River near Okotoks in September, 1971, and in Waterton Lakes National Park on July 20, 1972 (oral communication: A. Vervloet). Road kills have been found and identified 16 km (10 mi) west of Beiseker in the fall of 1970, and on the Trans-Canada Highway 10 km (6 mi) west of Strathmore on May 20, 1972 (oral communication: R. Vervloet). Reports indicate that Bull Snakes are also common in the Trochu Area, 105 km (65 mi) northeast of Calgary (personal communication: M. J. Hampson, June 13, 1972).

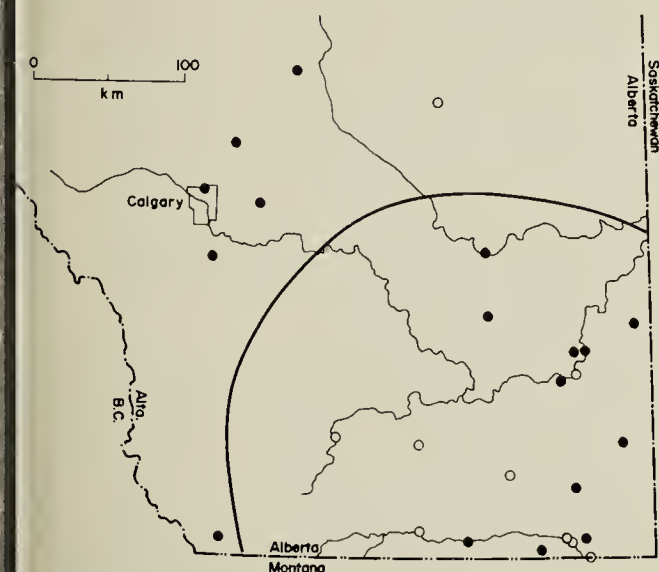


Figure 1. Occurrences of the Bull Snake *Pituophis melanoleucus sayi* in Alberta. The open circles are previous reports, solid circles are unpublished records included in this paper. The solid line represents the range limit of the species according to Stebbins.<sup>5</sup>

The writer is grateful to Mr. F. R. Cook, Curator of Herpetology at the National Museum of Natural Sciences in Ottawa, and Mr. M. J. Hampson, Zoological Preparator at the Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta, for providing some of the previously un-

published distribution data included on the map. The manuscript was critically read by F. R. Cook who offered suggestions for its improvement.

<sup>1</sup>Conant, R. 1958. A field guide to reptiles and amphibians of the United States and Canada east of the 100th meridian. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

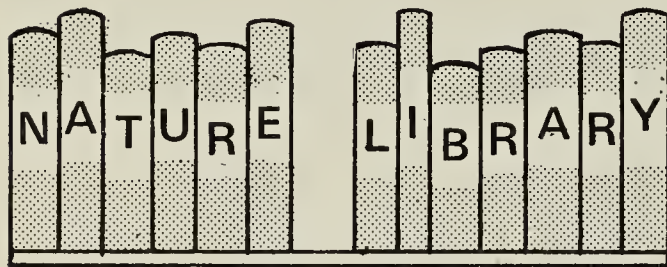
<sup>2</sup>Ditmars, R. L. 1936. The reptiles of North America. Doubleday and Company, Inc., New York.

<sup>3</sup>Logier, E. B. S., and G. C. Toner. 1961. Check-list of the amphibians and reptiles of Alaska and Canada. Second Edition. Royal Ontario Museum Life Sciences Division, Contributions 53:1-92.

<sup>4</sup>Schmidt, K. P., and D. D. Davis. 1941. Field book of snakes of the United States and Canada. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

<sup>5</sup>Stebbins, R. C. 1966. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

<sup>6</sup>Wright, A. H., and A. A. Wright. 1957. Handbook of snakes of the United States and Canada. Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, New York.



**RECENT POPULAR TITLES IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES AT SASKATOON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Compiled by DIANE WEIR

The Saskatoon Public Library, like most city and regional libraries, has considerable information on natural history and conservation, most of which is non-technical, designed for general interest. Although some books deal with a specific topic, the treatment as a rule is intended for the layman.

An annotated listing of some of the recent additions to our library in the natural history area follows. Call numbers have been included for the convenience of those able to use Saskatoon Public Library. However, the call numbers may not be exactly the same in other libraries using the Dewey Decimal System. A person who wishes to read any of these books but finds it is not in his regional library, may obtain it on interlibrary loan by giving the librarian the author's name, title and the fact that the book is in the Saskatoon Public Library. The books can also be obtained by Saskatchewan residents from the Provincial Library, Regina, by mail. There is no charge for either of these services.

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