

THE CARPENTER FROG (*Rana virgatipes*)  
IN CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND

On 24 May 1976 the author, while involved in an interagency state/federal project to classify inland wetlands on the Delmarva Peninsula, observed a number of carpenter frogs (*Rana virgatipes*) in an acidic wetland in Caroline County, Maryland. This site, which is located about one mile north of Hollingsworth Crossroads, is dominated by two vegetation types — 1) *Cethalanthus occidentalis* containing areas of open water, and 2) *Carex* sp. - *Sphagnum* sp. It is one of a number of apparently little-known, but ecologically interesting natural areas in and around the Maryland-Delaware border (Caroline County, Maryland and Kent County, Delaware). These areas are essentially isolated "potholes" some of which are glade-like in nature and others which are dominated by trees and/or shrubs. Possibly some of these sites should be rightfully considered coastal plain bogs.

The carpenter frogs were found in the *Carex* sp. - *Sphagnum* sp. vegetation type which contained standing water. This habitat is somewhat similar to areas where the author has observed the carpenter frog in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

One specimen was captured to verify its identity and a number of unidentified egg masses was also observed.

This observation of the carpenter frog represents a substantial northward extension of its range in Maryland. Reed (1957a) reviewed the distribution of the species and cited its occurrence in Maryland only in Dorchester County. Reed (1957b) subsequently collected it in Worcester County, Maryland. Harris (1975) states that it is "Known at present only on the southern part of the Eastern Shore..." The author's recent observation extends this distribution to the northern part of the Eastern Shore to an area about forty miles north of the previously known Delmarva stations. Subsequent to the author's observation, it was learned that Carter and Speir (1976) had collected it in one of the "potholes" about four miles further northeast of my site. Thus it may very well be that disjunct populations of carpenter frogs may occur in a number of these interesting wetlands.

Literature Cited

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