

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

If frogs and toads were rare creatures or confined to some distant outpost, most assuredly we'd look upon them as among the most marvelous of nature's creations. But such is the price of being able to survive and multiply in almost any environment.

Although common to all continents, by far the most of these amphibians live in the northern half of the world. Here in the U. S. we have 20 kinds.

These tailless amphibians, closely related to the tailed salamanders, are an ancient breed, having their beginnings so experts say some 349,000,000 years ago when their ancestors first forsook the ocean, developed limbs from fins, and lived partly on land.

Although frogs are sometimes called toads and toad frogs, generally these distinctions hold:

The name "toad" is applied usually to those which breed in water but spend most of their time on dry land, sometimes miles away from permanent pools, and their skin, although somewhat moist, is usually rough and not slippery with mucus "frogs" in turn usually do not stray far from water, foraging mainly along creeks, river banks, pools, marshes and sloughs, have a smooth skin, are well lubricated with mucus, and are wet to the touch.

Although amphibious, some live almost entirely in water—and of these most have lost their eyelids and tongues which are unnecessary under water; some live high up in trees and have special climbing pads on their toes; and some live in arid deserts. All, however, including the desert toads, must lay their eggs in moist places, usually in

water. Hence in desert areas, the breeding season usually coincides with spring rains.

Unsolved Mystery
Males emerge from their hiding places after dark and make their way to suitable pools, often crossing rough terrain to do so, and how they determine upon just which pools are suitable, that is which will not dry up before the eggs are laid and hatched remains an unsolved mystery. But regardless of how dry the area, he seldom errs.

Once he has found a suitable pool, he begins his distinctive call, no two kinds ever giving identical ones. To do so, he inflates a balloon-like extension of his throat by expelling air from his lungs. Then with mouth and nostrils kept tightly closed, he drives air back and forth over his vocal cords. As the sound is magnified in vocal pouch, which serves as a resonator, his whole frame shakes.

Seldom known, the common American toad has homing abilities: it has been known to return to its breeding site after being carried a mile away. Often hopping back within a night, it is the largest tailless amphibian in North America. They require permanent pools partly because the tadpole, which grows up to six inches long, may take as long as three years to transform from a polywog to a frog. The female, which outgrows the male, sometimes reaches a body length of eight inches. But even so, there is a giant frog in West

TALENT ELEMENTARY

As the 1956-57 school year gets under way, second graders at Talent Elementary school under the direction of Yvonne Mearns and Genevieve Holdridge, are observing the wonders of nature.

Interest in the study of the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly was aroused when specimens were bought. The metamorphosis from caterpillar through chrysalis to butterfly was observed. Students watched the caterpillars eating milkweed preparatory to making the green and gold chrysalis and later saw the orange and black butterfly emerge from the same chrysalis.

Following this, pupils made papier-mache models of various stages in the Monarch's metamorphosis.

Africa which measures as much as a foot or more in body length and weighs as much as a healthy Tom cat.

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Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader who sends me the best true-life adventure, or the best nature observation, or the best question on nature and wildlife a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference work in a handsome Sealcraft binding. Each week new submissions will be considered.



MONARCH BUTTERFLY—Second graders at Talent Elementary school study the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly with specimens shown above. Observing the life cycle above are, left to right, Larry McDowell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cleo L. McDowell; Vicki Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Taylor; and Nanette Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert E. Johnson, all of Talent.

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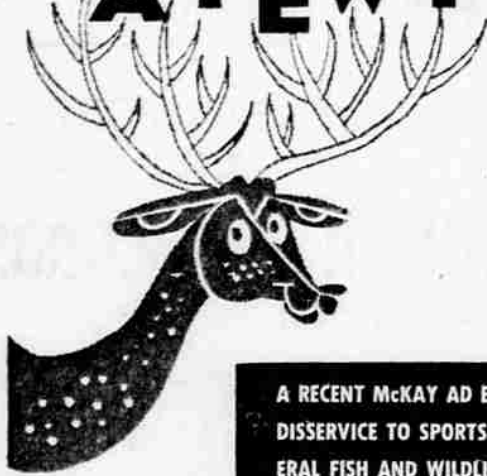


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A FEW POINTS



about the claim that
"nobody in this generation has done more to develop wildlife resources than Doug McKay"

A RECENT McKay AD ERECTED A BLIND OF MISSTATEMENTS TO COVER UP McKay'S DISSERVICE TO SPORTSMEN AND ALL LOVERS OF NATURE WHEN HE OPENED UP FEDERAL FISH AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES TO EXTENSIVE OIL LEASING.

READ HOW A UNANIMOUS REPORT OF THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS (12 Republicans, 17 Democrats) REFUTES THESE McKay CLAIMS

THE McKay MISSTATEMENTS

"So on August 31, 1953, he (McKay) issued an order suspending leasing by the Bureau of Land Management—the order to remain in effect until new adequate regulations could be drawn. It wasn't until two years ... that selected areas were reopened for leasing under new regulations."

"One of the noteworthy provisions of the new regulations for the first time gives the Fish and Wildlife Service veto authority over proposed leases."

"Wildlife reserves were ... protected under Secretary McKay".

BIPARTISAN REPORT OF FACTS

"Notwithstanding the fact that a stop order was issued ... directing the suspension of action on all oil and gas leases then pending, 60 leases were granted between the issuance of the suspension order and the issuance of new regulations..." (Unanimous Report, pp. 10, 11)

"Superficially, these regulations appear to give a veto power to the Fish and Wildlife Service. However, under applicable laws, oil and gas leasing in wildlife lands is a matter solely within the discretion of the Secretary of Interior." (Unanimous Report, p. 11)

"Such increased activity in the issuance of leases by the Secretary of Interior ... can only result in serious damage to the wildlife refuge systems in this country." (Unanimous report, p. 11)

The document quoted above is Report No. 1941, House of Representatives, 84th Congress, 2d Session, March, 1956.



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Michael Hudoba
Washington Editor

Dear Senator Morse: August 29, 1956

With the adjournment of the 84th Congress, I am compelled by appreciation for your excellent services for conservation to express my thanks in behalf of sportsmen-conservationists.

With kindest personal regards,

Mike Hudoba
Mike Hudoba

The McKay ad topped off this parade of misstatements with these words:
"Sportsmen like a man they can trust—a man who tells them the truth."

WITH THAT WE CAN AGREE... that's why we're supporting
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SAVE OUR RESOURCES COMMITTEE, Box 861, Portland, Lyle Watts, Secretary