

We also found some interesting reptile life. Melanism, the occurrence of black individuals in a species normally otherwise colored, and the opposite of albinism, occurs in many species, but is usually very rare. There appears, however, to be on Point Pelee a race of Garter Snakes specially prone to this color aberration. We have taken Black Garter Snakes here on other visits and obtained several this trip. On our return to Ottawa we brought with us quite a number of live snakes. Among them was a normal colored Garter Snake which shortly afterwards brought forth 35 young. Of these two were perfectly black or melanitic specimens, all the rest being of the usual striped coloration of the mother.

The Hognosed snake, *Heterodon platyrhinus*, is common on the dunes of east beach, where it usually spends the day under drift wood and logs, coming out at night to forage. The species seems to occur in two forms, a bright yellow and black one, and another form dusty gray with the bright yellow and black markings, veiled and but dimly visible. Though the most harmless of reptiles it has a most venomous aspect when aroused and cornered. It is popularly called "Blowing Adder" and generally regarded so deadly that even its breath is poisonous. When unable to escape an enemy, it coils at bay with its head and body raised from the ground about one-third its length, the head flattened and the chops protruded. Gradually the flatness and protrusion extends down the sides until the whole upraised portion assumes a ribbon-like aspect, perhaps an inch and a half across and less than half an inch through at the center, thinning out to almost nothing at the edges. In this attitude, as it faces its enemy, it is indeed a threatening sight, the more so as it "blows" with a distinctly obvious sound and makes passes, as if to strike with wide open mouth. But, to use a colloquial phrase, this is but a bluff, and if the enemy stands its ground the strike so determindly initiated ends with a futile stroke of a soft mouth that can not scratch the tenderest skin.

FF An occasional individual will carry the game into a still higher form of deception. Finding that its threatenings fail to alarm the aggressor it falls into an apparent fit. Writhing and squirming on the ground, it twists and bites the dust, filling its mouth with sand as it bores its head helplessly into the ground. Gradually the writhings grow fainter and weaker until they cease and the snake lies, belly upward and to all appearances dead. The simulation is close but careful examination shows it slightly over done; for instance, the snake refuses to lie right side up and every attempt at making it do so calls forth a weak spasm which throws it on its back again. Also the limp body will