



# TURTLES

## OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

### SPOTTED TURTLE

*Clemmys guttata*



#### STATE THREATENED

**Description:** 3.5 – 5". Top shell smooth, black w/yellow spots. Underside yellow w/black blotches.  
**Habitat:** Small shallow waterbodies w/emergent vegetation and mud bottoms – marshy meadows, wet woodlands, bogs, beaver ponds, streams and brooks. Hibernates under tree roots or mud in scrub-shrub, forested and emergent wetlands.  
**Range:** Primarily southeastern New Hampshire.

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### PAINTED TURTLE

*Chrysemys picta*



**Description:** 4-10". Top shell smooth, olive brown to black w/ yellow lines between scutes and red crescents around outer edge. Bottom shell yellow. Yellow and/or red stripes on head, neck, legs and tail.  
**Habitat:** Mud-bottom ponds, rivers, swamps, marshes, woodland pools, bogs. Basks on logs and rocks, sometimes in large groups. Hibernates buried under mud at bottom of ponds.  
**Range:** Common statewide, except far north.

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### SNAPPING TURTLE

*Chelydra s. serpentina*



**Description:** 8-18". Top shell tan to dark brown. Underside yellowish and cross shaped. Long tail with saw-tooth keels. Large head and long neck. Powerful, hooked jaw; can bite hard if provoked.  
**Habitat:** Fresh, salt and brackish waterbodies with mud bottoms and aquatic vegetation. Hibernates under mud banks, in muskrat holes and under mud and debris on lake bottoms.  
**Range:** Common throughout New Hampshire, except far north.

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### BLANDING'S TURTLE

*Emydoidea blandingii*



#### STATE ENDANGERED

**Description:** 5-10". Yellow chin and neck. Helmet-shaped top shell, black w/ yellow spots or flecks. Bottom shell hinged, yellow with black blotches.  
**Habitat:** Shallow marshes, ponds, forested and shrub swamps, fens, slow-moving rivers, oxbows and vernal pools water w/mud bottom and aquatic vegetation. Hibernates under mud or debris.  
**Range:** Southeastern N.H. Seen as far north as Moultonborough, Holderness and Sandwich.

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## WOOD TURTLE

*Glyptemys insculpta*



### CONSERVATION CONCERN

**Description:** 5-9". Top shell rough, brown with individual pyramids on each scute. Underside yellow w/black blotches.

**Habitat:** Rivers or streams with sand or gravel bottoms. May use surrounding upland habitats during summer. Hibernates under banks, submerged trees and woody debris in rivers and deep pools, wildlife burrows. May hibernate in groups. Some hibernate in the same location each year.

**Range:** Statewide.

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## EASTERN BOX TURTLE

*Terrapene c. carolina*



### CONSERVATION CONCERN

**Description:** 4-8". Top shell domed, dark brown w/yellow-orange patterns. Underside – tan, brown, olive, yellow or orange; may be patterned; a hinge allows tight closure against top shell.

**Habitat:** Terrestrial turtle. Uses well-drained habitats: woodlands, pastures, field edges, powerlines, thickets. May use wetlands and shallow streams to hide, find food or cool down. Hibernates by burrowing into the soil, upper shell may remain visible.

**Range:** Distribution/abundance not well known in N.H. Historical records from southern areas, such as Lee and Pelham.

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## MUSK TURTLE - "STINKPOT"

*Sternotherus odoratus*



**Description:** 3-5". Two light stripes on both sides of head. Top shell smooth, olive-brown to dark gray; highly domed. Underside small with a single hinge. If picked up, may secrete a foul fluid from glands under the top shell.

**Habitat:** Fresh, slow-moving waterbodies w/ mud bottoms – ponds, rivers and shallow, weedy reservoirs. Hibernates under mud, debris or rocks on the bottom of waterbodies.

**Range:** Southern New Hampshire.

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## RED-EARED SLIDER

*Trachemys scripta elegans*



### NON-NATIVE IN N.H.

**Description:** 5-8". Broad, reddish stripe behind eyes. Body olive green w/yellow stripes. Top shell smooth, flattened; adults almost black. Underside yellow w/dark blotches at the center of each scute.

**Habitat:** Fresh, slow-moving waterbodies w/soft bottoms, aquatic vegetation and basking sites, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, streams.

**Range:** Not native to N.H. and are considered an invasive species. Established populations in Mass.; occasional sightings in N.H.

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Learn more about New Hampshire's turtles at:  
[www.WildNH.com/nongame](http://www.WildNH.com/nongame)

