

# Field Marks

Family	Species	Head & Neck	Carapace	Plastron	Legs & Tail
Chelydridae	<a href="#">Snapping Turtle</a>	Large head with strong jaw and long neck	Shallowly domed, <u>strongly toothed posterior margin</u> ; three keels wear down with age	Narrow	<u>No colorful markings</u> , spots, or stripes; <u>spines on dorsal surface of tail</u>
	<a href="#">Painted Turtle</a>	Dark green skin, <u>yellow stripes on neck</u> (changes to <u>red stripes at base of neck</u> ); <u>two yellow spots</u> on each side of neck	Dark green to black, <u>smooth</u> (no keel); scutes outlined in lighter green or off-white	Wide, solid yellow or yellow with a dark irregular central blotch; <u>undersides of outer scutes have yellow, green, and red markings</u>	Dark green skin with <u>red stripes</u> on legs; <u>yellow &amp; red stripes</u> on tail
Emyridae	<a href="#">Spotted Turtle</a>	Dark with yellow spots dorsally	Oval, smooth; <u>black with yellow spots</u>	Yellow or orange with black on outer edges of scutes; hatchlings with solid black plastrons	Dark with yellow spots dorsally; skin on ventral side may be brighter (orange, pink, red)
	<a href="#">Blanding's Turtle</a> (unconfirmed)	<u>Solid-yellow chin and throat</u>	<u>Highly domed</u> carapace; dark with light flecking; smooth posterior margin	Wide, yellow with black on outer edges of scutes; <u>hinged plastron</u> ; hatchlings' plastrons black with yellowish coloring around edges	Black or dark gray, sometimes peppered with yellow
	<a href="#">Wood Turtle</a>	Black head; <u>yellow, orange, or red neck</u>	Brown or gray carapace with weakly toothed posterior margin; <u>pyramidal stack of scutes form concentric rings</u>	Wide, yellow with black on outer edges of scutes; hatchlings with solid black plastrons	<u>Yellow, orange, or red legs</u>
	<a href="#">Northern Map Turtle</a>	Dark green to black with yellow stripes	<u>Slightly domed</u> , smooth; may have strong central keel; gray-green with curved off-white lines; <u>toothed &amp; flared posterior margin</u>	Wide, usually pale yellow	Dark green to black skin with pale yellow stripes
	<a href="#">Eastern Box Turtle</a> (unconfirmed)	Mostly dark and mottled with yellow and orange	<u>Highly domed</u> , smooth on posterior margin, <u>slight mid-dorsal keel</u> ; yellow and orange markings on darker background	<u>Hinged on anterior side of the bridge</u>	Dark and mottled with yellow and orange; native turtles with four toes on their hind feet (released pets may have three toes on hind feet)
Kinosternidae	<a href="#">Eastern Musk Turtle</a>	Grayish-green skin with <u>two white stripes</u> on each side of head and neck; <u>fleshy hair-like projections</u> under the chin	Oval, <u>moderately domed</u> , <u>smooth carapace</u> ; solid grayish green	Small, <u>slightly hinged</u> ; <u>skin exposed between scutes</u>	Grayish-green
Trionychidae	<a href="#">Spiny Softshell</a>	Long neck and <u>thin tubular snout</u> ; <u>two light stripes</u> on side of face	Flat, smooth, <u>leathery</u> (no scutes); gray-brown with dark spots or rings	Narrow, pale yellow or white	Tan or olive with black markings

# Field Marks & Eggs

Family	Species	Hinge	Deciduous Scutes	TSD*	Overwinter in Nest	Egg Shape	Egg Length** (mm)	Egg Width** (mm)	Temperature in °C & Sex	No. of Eggs**
Chelydridae	<a href="#">Snapping Turtle</a>	No	No	Yes	No	<u>Round</u>	23-33	23-33	20 females 21-22 both 23-24 males	20-80 (more commonly 20-40)
	<a href="#">Painted Turtle</a>	No	<u>Yes</u>	Yes	<u>Yes***</u>	Oval	27.9-35.1	15.9-22.6	22-27 only males 30-32 females	1-23 (VT average 6.5)
Emydidae	<a href="#">Spotted Turtle</a>	No	No	Yes	No	Oval	25-33.7	15.9-18.5	22.5-27 mostly males 30 all females	1-8*****
	<a href="#">Blanding's Turtle</a> (unconfirmed)	<u>Yes</u>	No	Yes	No	Oval	28.0-40.7	17.7-26.0	22.5-26.5 97-100% males 30-31 females	3-22
	<a href="#">Wood Turtle</a>	No	No	<u>No</u>	No****	Oval	27-49	19.5-26.3 mm	Genetically determined	1-18 (average 7-10)
	<a href="#">Northern Map Turtle</a>	No	<u>Yes</u>	Yes	<u>~20% of time</u>	Oval	32.7-37.4	17.9-24.7	~25 males ~30 females	8-19***** (VT average 12)
	<a href="#">Eastern Box Turtle</a> (unconfirmed)	<u>Yes</u>	No	Yes	No	Oval	24.5-40.2	17.0-25.1	22.5-27 males 28.5 females	1-11
Kinosternidae	<a href="#">Eastern Musk Turtle</a>	<u>Barely</u>	No	Yes	No	Oval	22-31	13-17	≤25 males 26-27 both sexes ≥28 nearly all females	1-9
Trionychidae	<a href="#">Spiny Softshell</a>	No	No	<u>No</u>	No	<u>Round &amp; Calcified</u>	24-32	24-32	Genetically determined	4-39

\* Temperature-Dependent Sex Determination

\*\* Size and number of eggs may vary with female size

\*\*\* Occasional fall emergence

\*\*\*\* Very occasional spring emergence

\*\*\*\*\* Occasionally have two clutches a year in the southern portion of their range

# Sexual Differences & Longevity

Family	Species	Sexual Maturity*		Sexual Dimorphism		Reported Longevity
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
Chelydridae	<a href="#">Snapping Turtle</a>	PL 149-155 mm (5.9-6.1 in.), 4-5 years	PL ~155 mm (~6.1 in.), 17-19 years	Grow <u>larger</u> than females.	Smaller than males.	20-40 years
	<a href="#">Painted Turtle</a>	PL 70-95 mm (2.8-3.7 in.), 3-5 years	PL 97-128 mm (3.8-5 in.), 6-10 years	Have <u>elongated foreclaws</u> and long, thick tails, with the <u>vent posterior to the margin of the carapace</u> .	Are <u>larger</u> in all shell dimensions.	20-40 years
Emyridae	<a href="#">Spotted Turtle</a>	CL 80-90 mm (3.1-3.5 in.), 7-14 years	CL 80-90 mm (3.1-3.5 in.), 7-14 years	Have <u>tan chins, brown eyes</u> , a slightly <u>concave plastron</u> , and long, thick tails with the <u>vent posterior to the margin of the carapace</u> .	Have <u>yellow chins, orange eyes</u> , a <u>flat or convex plastron</u> , shorter tails with the <u>vent inside the margin of the carapace</u> , and are typically <u>larger</u> than males.	>30 years
	<a href="#">Blanding's Turtle</a> (unconfirmed)	PL 180-190 mm (7.1-7.5 in.), 12 years	PL ~170 mm (~6.7 in.), ≥18 years	Have <u>dark pigmentation</u> in their upper jaws, the <u>vent posterior to the margin of the carapace</u> , and a slightly <u>concave plastron</u> .	Have <u>yellow upper jaws</u> , the <u>vent inside the margin of the carapace</u> , and a <u>flat plastron</u> . Also have a longer plastron and a higher carapace than males.	25-77 years
	<a href="#">Wood Turtle</a>	PL 141-179 mm (5.6-7.0 in.) CL 192-200 mm (7.6-7.9 in.), 14-18 years	PL 134-160 mm (5.3-6.3 in.) CL 158-185 mm (6.2-7.3 in.), 14-18 years	1.07-1.10 times <u>larger</u> than females, have long, thick tails, with <u>vent posterior to the margin of the carapace</u> , a <u>concave plastron</u> , and prominent <u>scales on the anterior surface of the forelimbs</u> .	Smaller than males.	20->80 years
	<a href="#">Northern Map Turtle</a>	CL ≥190 mm (≥7.5 in.), ≥14 years	CL ≥190 mm (≥7.5 in.), ≥14 years	Have an oval carapace, long, thick tails, with the <u>vent posterior to the margin of the carapace</u> and reach a carapace size up to 160 mm.	Reach a <u>larger</u> carapace size of 273 mm and have a broader head and a more rounded carapace than males.	18-20 years
	<a href="#">Eastern Box Turtle</a> (unconfirmed)	5-10 years	5-10 years	Typically, have a <u>red iris</u> , the <u>posterior lobe of the plastron is concave</u> , have fairly <u>long, stocky, and considerably curved hind foot claws</u> , and <u>longer thicker tails</u> compared to females.	Typically, have a <u>yellowish-brown iris</u> , a <u>more domed carapace</u> compared to males, a <u>flat or slightly convex plastron</u> , and <u>shorter, more slender, and straighter hind claws</u> compared to males.	30-138 years
Kinosternidae	<a href="#">Eastern Musk Turtle</a>	CL 60-70 mm (2.4-2.8 in.), 3-4 years	CL ≥80 mm (≥3.1 in.), 2-7 years	Have <u>longer, thicker tails, which end in a blunt terminal nail</u> , more <u>exposed skin</u> around the median plastral seams, and two small patches of <u>tilted scales</u> on the inner surface of each hind leg.	Have <u>larger</u> plastrons than males.	27-57 years
Trionychidae	<a href="#">Spiny Softshell</a>	PL 90-100 mm (3.5-3.9 in.), 8-10 years	PL 180-200 mm (7.1-7.9 in.), 8-10 years	Have <u>long thick tails</u> with the <u>anal opening near the tip</u> and retain the juvenile pattern of <u>ocelli, spots, and lines on the carapace</u> .	Have <u>short tails</u> situated beneath the carapace and develop a <u>mottled or blotched pattern</u> . More than 1.6 times <u>larger</u> than males.	25 years

\* PL = plastron length, CL = carapace length, age in years at sexual maturity

# References

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