

Spotted Turtle

Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) - Pl.2

Identification: 3 1/2" - 5". The Spotted Turtle is easily identified by the well-defined round, yellow spots on its smooth, black carapace. The number of spots varies with age. Juveniles have few spots, often just one per scute, whereas adult turtles may have numerous spots on each scute. Spots may fade in older individuals, which may ultimately lose them entirely. The hingeless plastron is yellow or orange, with large dark blotches in the center in juveniles, or towards the outer edges in adults. The head, neck and legs are black, with yellow or orange spots.

Where to find them: The Spotted Turtle is found in marshy, boggy, swampy areas, and in wet wooded areas. It likes to bask out in the sun. When disturbed, it will slip into the water and burrow into the mud at the bottom.

When to find them: Active March through October.

Range: Entire state.

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Key Features

- Carapace: smooth & dark with yellow spots.
- Plastron: hingeless with an orange to yellow color.
- Head, neck, and legs with yellow or orange spots.



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Excerpt from: Schwartz, V. & D. Golden, "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey". New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife 2002.

Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>