

Wood Turtle

Wood Turtle - *State Threatened Species* - Pl.3 (*Clemmys insculpta*)

Identification: 5" - 9". The carapace of the Wood Turtle looks as though it were sculpted from wood. Each scute of the carapace is a rough irregular pyramid rising from concentric ridges, with grooves radiating from the center of the pyramid. The brown carapace is usually keeled along the midline. The hingeless plastron is yellow with black markings towards the outer edges. Parts of the neck and front legs of the wood turtle have a red or orange coloration.

Where to find them: This turtle is a riparian species that uses a mosaic of wetland and upland habitats in the vicinity of its stream habitat. The Wood Turtle requires clean streams running through meadows, woods, and farmlands. However, it often can be found away from water, especially after warm spring rains or in the summer. It will rest in the shade of vegetation, fallen logs, or debris.

When to find them: Active late March or early April through October.

Range: All of the Northern Region, except the urbanized regions of the eastern counties. Sparse records in the Southern Region.

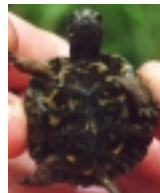
Conservation Status: Because wood turtles commonly inhabit both aquatic and terrestrial environments, declines in their abundance can be attributed to both habitat loss and stream degradation. This species was listed as threatened in New Jersey in 1979 as a result of major decreases in its abundance and distribution in the state.

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Key Features

- Red or orange on neck & legs.
- Carapace: brown and rough.
- Plastron: hingeless; yellow with black markings on outer edges.



State Threatened



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife ~ 2003



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>