

Chelydra serpentina

Family Chelydridae

- Shell broadly oval
- Plastron small and cruciform
- Head large with powerful jaws
- Carapace with three rough keels
- Abundant turtle in ponds, marshes and swamps
- Omnivorous (fish, frogs, invertebrates, and aquatic birds)
- Mating occurs from April to November and takes place water
- Eggs are laid in late Spring – early Fall, but mostly summer



Sternotherus odoratus

Family Kinosternidae

- Carapace moderately elongate and narrow, usually highly arched
- Carapace keeled or smooth
- Plastron small and somewhat cruciform
- Pectoral scutes squarish
- 23 marginal scutes (most other turtles have 25)
- Young have prominent middorsal keel bordered by two smaller keels
- Barbels on chin and throat
- Carapace dark brown to black, often covered with algae
- Head dark with pair of yellow or white lines running from snout along sides of head
- Found marshes, streams, ponds and swamps
- Feed on snails and other invertebrates
- Mating occurs from May to October , egg laying from May to August



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Chrysemys picta

Family Emydidae

- Carapace low, broad, and smoothly arched
- Plastron lacks hinge
- Males have longer claws than females
- Carapacial scutes smooth
- Posterior margin of carapace not serrated
- Large scutes of carapace in straight rows across back
- Carapace olive to dark brown, with patterns of red and yellow
- Marginals always marked with red
- Plastron yellow, sometimes marked with reddish brown or black
- Skin dark with red and yellow markings, especially around head and neck
- Most common aquatic turtle
- Mating occurs in spring in the water.
- Five to seven eggs are laid in shallow nests excavated in loose soil or sand near the margins of ponds.



Clemmys guttata

Family Emydidae

- Carapace low and smooth
- No hinge on plastron
- Carapace color brown or almost black, distinct yellow or orange spots
- Orange spots on head
- Aquatic turtle usually found in ponds and swamps, but also in streams, ditches and small lakes.
- They are often the first reptiles to be seen in early spring
- Mating occurs in water in the spring
- Clutches of 3 - 5 eggs is laid in a shallow nest on well-drained embankments, in pastures, or on the tops of tussocks of vegetation in bogs and swamps.



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Glyptemys muhlenbergii

Family Emydidae

- Smallest Connecticut turtle
- Plastron firmly connected to carapace, lacking hinge
- No prominent growth rings on dorsal scutes
- Carapace dark brown to black with yellow or red markings
- Head black with distinctive orange or yellow spot on each side
- Rarest and most endangered turtle
- Restricted to sphagnum bogs, wet meadows and the borders of red maple swamps
- Mating occurs in late spring and summer
- Females lay small clutches of eggs on top of tussocks of vegetation in bogs



Glyptemys insculpta

Family Emydidae

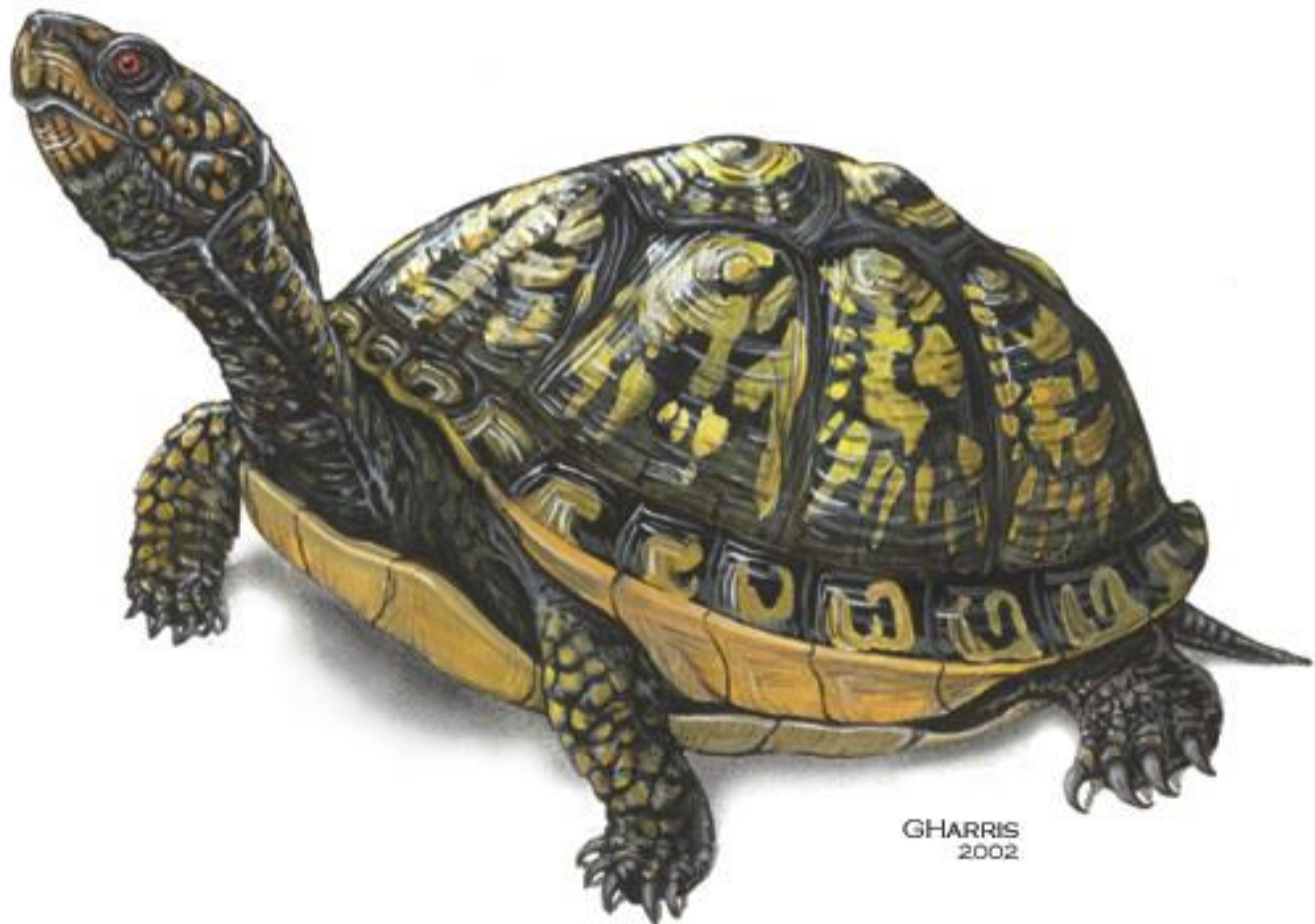
- Carapace roughened with concentric pyramidal grooves and ridges on each plate
- Carapace low and broad
- Plastron firmly attached to carapace without hinge
- Carapace gray or brown
- Plastron yellow
- Skin of head and legs salmon red or orange
- No blotch on temple
- Large scutes of carapace may have yellow or red centers
- Much more terrestrial than other members of the genus
- Mating occurs in the water
- Found in woodlands far from water



Terrapene carolina

Family Emydidae

- Carapace high and domed
- Plastron large and connected to carapace by cartilage
- Two lobes of plastron connected by hinge
- Plastron of males concave
- Front of upper jaw with hooked beak
- Four toes on each hind foot
- Color highly variable, usually striking yellow or orange mottling on dark background
- Head and legs marked with orange and yellow
- Eyes of males bright red, females have brown eyes
- Terrestrial species found in woodlands, old fields, lawns and gardens
- Mating occurs on land, and females lay clutches in loose soil



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Malaclemys terrapin

Family Emydidae

- Carapace flattened with distinct keel
- Carapace wedge-shaped when viewed from above, widest at rear
- Each large shield/scute deeply marked with concentric rings
- Plastron oblong with nearly parallel sides
- Carapace usually brown or gray
- Plastron orange, gold, or olive
- Head usually light gray and marked with distinct black spots, limbs spotted
- Found in tidal marshes and estuaries
- Feeds on mollusks and crustaceans (enlarged jaws for crushing)
- Eggs are laid in sandy soil



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