

Maine Turtle Roadkill Survey

Photo: Jonathan Mays

Species Identification Tips



Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingi*)
State Endangered

- High-domed carapace (top shell), resembling the shape of a WWI military helmet.
- Carapace dark black-brown, flecked with tan spots or streaks
- Yellow chin and throat, contrasting with darker color of head/face/neck



Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*)
State Threatened

- Distinct bright yellow spots on black carapace (top shell)
- Males with concave plastron (bottom shell), tan chin, and brown eyes
- Females with flat plastron, yellow-orange chin and orange eyes



Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta*)

- Dark blue-black carapace (top shell) with paler yellow-beige plastron (bottom shell)
- Head with yellow stripes; and legs with red stripes



Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)

- Large carapace, jagged at rear end; very small plastron (bottom shell)
- Plain earth-toned (gray or brown) carapace and body



Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*)

State Special Concern

- Medium-sized turtle with annuli (growth rings) giving distinct sculpted appearance to shell
- Carapace is dull brown to dark grey and often has amber-colored radiating pattern
- Orange coloration on neck and limbs



Musk Turtle (Stinkpot)

(*Sternotherus odoratus*)

- Small turtle with smooth, domed carapace (top shell)
- Carapace is dark black/brown and often has algae growing on it
- Two prominent light stripes on side of face