

Striped Mud Turtle 20090306 Rbrown

The Status of the Nearly Extinct Illinois Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon flavescens* Spooneri Smith 1951) with Recommendations for Its Conservation
The Status of the Nearly Extinct Illinois Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon Flescens* Spooneri Smith 1951) with Recommendations for Its Conservation
The status of the nearly extinct Illinois mud turtle *Kinosternon flavescens* spooneri Smith 1951 with recommendations for its conservation
Conservation and Recovery of the Yellow Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon Flavescens*) in Mason and Tazewell Counties, Illinois
Mud Turtles as Pet
The Yellow Mud Turtle, *Kinosternon Flavescens* Spooneri Smith, in Iowa
Behavioral Aspects of the Life History of the Illinois Mud Turtle, *K* *i* *n* *o* *s* *t* *e* *r* *n* *o* *n* *F* *l* *a* *v* *e* *r* *s* *c* *e* *n* *s* *S* *p* *o* *o* *n* *e* *r* *i* *A* *S* *t* *a* *t* *u* *s* *R* *e* *p* *o* *r* *t*
Taxonomy of the Illinois Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon Flavescens* Spooneri) *The Mud Turtle*. C.C.C. Co. 1590
Ecology of the State Endangered Yellow Mud Turtle, *Kinosternon Flavescens* in Henry Co., Illinois
Geographic Variation in the Yellow Mud Turtle, *Kinosternon Flavescens*, from the Central and Southwestern United States, and Northwestern Mexico
Spatial and Temporal Activities of the Yellow Mud Turtle, *Kinosternon Flavescens*, in Eastern New Mexico
Lauren Brown Lauren Brown Lauren E. Brown Andrew J. Berger HARPER. CLAWSON Christopher Dodge James Alan Cooper John W. Bickham Michael W. Tuma Timothy William Houseal Robert Charles Semmler

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the yellow mud turtle *kinosternon flavescens* is listed as state endangered in illinois and has suffered severe declines throughout its midwest range trapping surveys were performed to document the presence and distribution of *k flavescens* inhabiting mason and tazewell counties illinois previous trapping in the study area from 1992 2001 resulted in a catch per unit effort of 0 1013 compared to recent studies conducted from 2007 2009 that resulted in a catch per unit effort of 0 0120 the results of recent trapping suggest a decline in numbers of *k flavescens* in the

study area despite protection of suitable habitat the study area lies in the central illinois range of *k flavescens* where much of the landscape has been modified for agricultural use leaving very little terrestrial habitat suitable for aestivation nesting and overwintering because *k flavescens* is a philopatric species it is important to focus initial habitat conservation on areas known to be used by *k flavescens* based on radio telemetry observations of 25 *k flavescens* 40 terrestrial locations were identified as being suitable for aestivation nesting and overwintering these 40 locations occurred on grassland 38 or savannah 2 habitats and 37 of 40 locations occurred on the plainfield sand soil series although conservation of habitat alone is not sufficient to recover *k flavescens* in mason and tazewell counties the identification and characterization of terrestrial habitats used by turtles is necessary for other recovery efforts to succeed because of the low numbers of individuals captured from small wetlands in a fragmented landscape there are concerns that *k flavescens* populations in the study area are vulnerable to problems associated with low genetic diversity and demographic stochasticity graph theory was used to model connectivity among wetlands in the study area two groups of wetlands including all but one wetland where *k flavescens* had been captured from 2007 2009 were identified as being connected by edge distances of 650 m or less understanding connectivity among wetlands in the study area will assist managers in focusing conservation efforts at the landscape scale and not on individual wetlands increasing connectivity among wetlands in the study area will help to increase genetic diversity and demographic stability of *k flavescens* in the study area

mud turtles genus *kinosternon* are small semi aquatic reptiles that belong to the family *kinosternidae* they are native to north and central america inhabiting freshwater environments such as slow moving rivers ponds marshes and swamps mud turtles have adapted to a variety of ecosystems from coastal wetlands to inland streams demonstrating remarkable resilience to environmental changes unlike fully aquatic turtles mud turtles spend time both in water and on land they prefer shallow water bodies with abundant vegetation and soft muddy substrates which provide an ideal habitat for foraging and burrowing their ability to withstand periods of drought by burrowing into mud and entering a state of dormancy makes them uniquely suited to fluctuating water conditions common mud turtle species and their differences there are several species of mud turtles each with distinct characteristics and habitat preferences some of the most commonly kept species in captivity include eastern mud turtle *kinosternon subrubrum* found in the eastern united states prefers shallow ponds marshes and swamps small in size 3 5 inches with a smooth dark brown shell omnivorous diet including insects plants and small fish striped mud turtle *kinosternon baurii* native to florida and coastal regions of georgia and south carolina features three yellow stripes on its dark brown or olive colored shell typically inhabits slow moving freshwater bodies and brackish environments highly active and can thrive in captivity with proper care yellow mud turtle *kinosternon flavescens* found in the central and southern united states recognizable by its yellow brown carapace and light colored throat more terrestrial than other mud turtles often found in temporary pools can withstand dry conditions by burrowing into the ground sonoran mud turtle *kinosternon sonoriense* native to the southwestern united states and mexico prefers rocky streams and desert springs dark colored carapace with a hinged plastron for protection feeds primarily on aquatic insects and small fish each species has unique habitat requirements but all mud turtles share common care needs regarding water quality diet and environmental enrichment

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