



eastern mud turtle

Kinosternon subrubrum

Kingdom: Animalia
 Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
 Class: Reptilia
 Order: Testudines
 Family: Kinosternidae

FEATURES

The eastern mud turtle averages about three to four inches in length. Its carapace (upper shell) is smooth and some shade of brown. The plastron (lower shell) is double-hinged. A broad bridge connects the upper and lower shells. The head is spotted, mottled or streaked with yellow. This animal has barbels (whisker-like projections) on its chin and neck.

BEHAVIORS

The eastern mud turtle lives in shallow water with a soft bottom such as in marshes, ditches, swamps and sloughs. This turtle is aquatic but often leaves the water. Mating occurs in spring. The female deposits one to six eggs in a nest dug in soil or vegetation in spring or early summer. This animal feeds while walking along the bottom of ponds and sloughs, eating mostly insects.

HABITATS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> native | <input type="checkbox"/> exotic | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

southern 1/3

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2006. *Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.