



slider

Trachemys scripta

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

FEATURES

The slider averages five to eight inches in length. It has a red stripe behind each eye. The carapace (upper shell) appears oval when viewed from above, and the rear margin of the shell is saw-toothed. The toes are webbed. The carapace is brown or olive, and the legs, head and tail have yellow stripes. Some older adults become uniformly dark.

BEHAVIORS

The slider lives in quiet water which has a muddy bottom and much vegetation. This turtle is aquatic, rarely coming to land except to lay eggs or to bask in the sun on logs or other objects along the water's edge. It feeds in early morning and late evening. The mating season lasts from March to June. The female digs a nest on land in late spring and deposits from five to 22 eggs, the number depending on her size and age. Hatching may occur in late summer or early fall but some turtles will overwinter in the egg and hatch the next spring. The slider eats plants, fishes, amphibians, crustaceans, mollusks (snails, slugs and others) and insects.

HABITATS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input checked="" 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 2/3

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.