

## Box and Water Turtles: *Family Emydidae* (8 species)

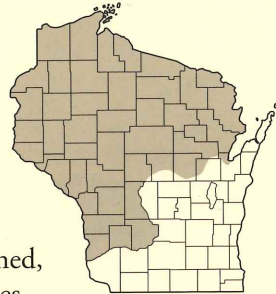
Turtles with a variety of colors and patterns that live in water, on land, or both.

### Wood Turtle

*Clemmys insculpta* (carapace 6 to 9.5 in.)

Status: Threatened

The medium-sized wood turtle is most easily recognized by the sculptured growth rings on each scute of its carapace. The carapace is usually a medium brown, and occasionally has black flecks and faint yellow rays. The plastron is yellow with black blotches toward the outer edges. The head is dark brown to blackish and unpatterned, and the skin on the neck and leg sockets varies from pale yellow to orangish-red. Wood turtles are a semi-aquatic species that prefers moderate to fast-flowing water. They spend a great deal of time in forested habitats adjacent to rivers and streams, where they feed on berries, greens, night crawlers, worms, and other invertebrates. Wood turtles frequently bask on land and are less observable than other riverine turtles. Females often nest communally, and their eggs are often heavily predated. Hatchlings are olive green to light brown with tails slightly longer than the carapace.



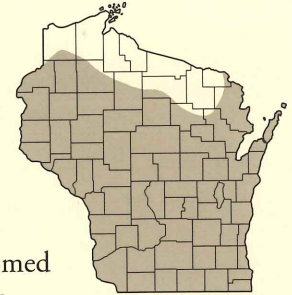
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### Blanding's Turtle

*Emydoidea blandingii* (carapace 6 to 10 in.)

Status: Threatened

The Blanding's turtle is a medium-sized species with an elongated and highly domed shell. The carapace is usually blackish with specks or dashes of yellow. Its plastron looks similar to that of the wood turtle. However, it has a hinge that allows the shell to fold upwards toward the carapace, especially the front portion. Its domed shell and hinge often cause this animal to be misidentified as a box turtle. The head is dark brown to black, often with scattered spots or swirls of yellow. The adult sports a brilliant yellow chin, unlike any other Wisconsin turtle. Blanding's turtles prefer shallow marshy habitats with abundant submerged vegetation, although they can be found in almost any aquatic habitat. They are semi-terrestrial and often move between wetlands during the active season. The Blanding's is an omnivore, eating crayfish, snails, tadpoles, fish, insects, worms, grasses, and berries.



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