



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE**

Rescue • Rehabilitate • Release • Preserve

Intro and Background



Who We Are



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Dallas Huggins and Drew Stevens

NH Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators

**Experienced with raptor rehab but
focused on native turtles**

Active in local land use planning



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Dallas and Drew



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE**

NH Turtle Rescue

- **Founded in 2022 in Nottingham**
- **Specialized in wild native turtles**
- **Licensed by state but supported entirely by public donations**
- **Permitted to care for endangered species**



**We Are A
501(c)(3) Public Charity**



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE**

What We Do



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Our mission is to **rescue, rehabilitate, release, and preserve** native turtle species through individualized care, public education, outreach, and scientific research in support of imperiled populations of **wild New Hampshire turtles.**



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Critically Endangered Eastern Box Turtle Hatchling



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Why Turtles?

- **Most species imperiled (4 out of 7)**
- **Extreme longevity exponentiates rehabilitation potential**
- **Life history and reproductive strategy places high value on mature individuals**



Rasi

Spotted Turtle ambassador



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

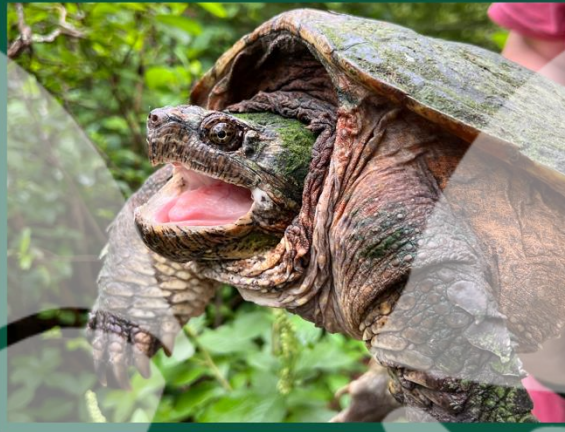
New Hampshire's Native Turtles



Eastern Painted Turtle



Common Snapping Turtle



Common Musk Turtle



Wood Turtle



Vulnerable to Extinction

Spotted Turtle



Imperiled (S2)

Blanding's Turtle



Critically Imperiled (S1)

Eastern Box Turtle



Critically Imperiled (S1)



New Hampshire's Seven Native Turtles



General Life History Traits

- **Long-lived**
- **Active during warm months –
brumate during the winter**
- **Delayed reproductive maturity**



General Life History Traits

- **Temperature-dependent sex determination***
- **High nest depredation rates**
- **Low juvenile recruitment rates**



Eastern Painted Turtle



New Hampshire's Seven Native Turtles



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Eastern Painted Turtle



- **Most frequently observed**
- **Freshwater habitat generalist**
- **Can lay multiple clutches**
- **Hatchlings may overwinter in nest**



Common Snapping Turtle



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

New Hampshire's Seven Native Turtles



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Common Snapping Turtle

- **Largest turtle in NH**
- **Few natural predators, only vulnerable out of water**
- **Not aggressive to humans!**
- **Wetlands custodian**



Common Musk Turtle



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

New Hampshire's Seven Native Turtles



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Musk Turtle

- One of the smallest turtles
- Don't leave water often
- Climb trees to bask
- Scent glands – “Stinkpot”
- Nocturnal



Wood Turtle



Vulnerable to Extinction



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

New Hampshire's Seven Native Turtles



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Wood Turtle

- **Semi-terrestrial**
- **Clean, slow-moving rivers**
- **Reddish here, yellowish in Great Lakes region**
- **Known to WORM STOMP**



Spotted Turtle



Imperiled (S2)



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

New Hampshire's Seven Native Turtles



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Spotted Turtle



- **Second smallest turtle in North America**
- **Early risers in spring**
- **Can be found in vernal pools**
- **Collective brumation**



Blanding's Turtle



Critically Imperiled (S1)



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

New Hampshire's Seven Native Turtles



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Blanding's Turtle

- **Second largest turtle in NH**
- **Long yellow neck**
- **14-21 years to reproduce**
- **37-40 year generation time**



Eastern Box Turtle



Critically Imperiled (S1)



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

New Hampshire's Seven Native Turtles



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Eastern Box Turtle



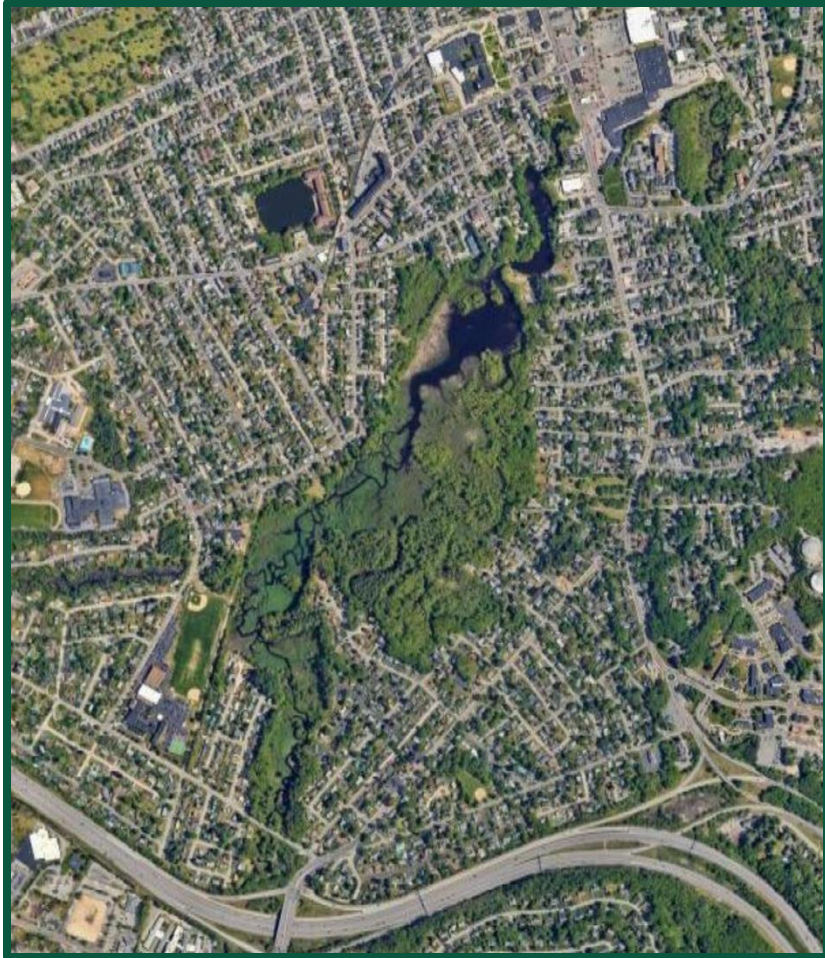
- **Terrestrial**
- **Hinged plastron**
- **Few populations left in NH**
- **Dig deep to brumate in winter**



Threats to Native Turtles



Habitat Loss and Fragmentation



Road Mortality




Pets and Subsidized Predators



Kidnapping

[reply](#) [favorite](#) [hide](#) [flag](#) [share](#) Posted about 24 hours ago

Snapping Turtle (Southern NH)



Rescued a baby snapper a few years ago. Getting bigger, anyone want him for free?

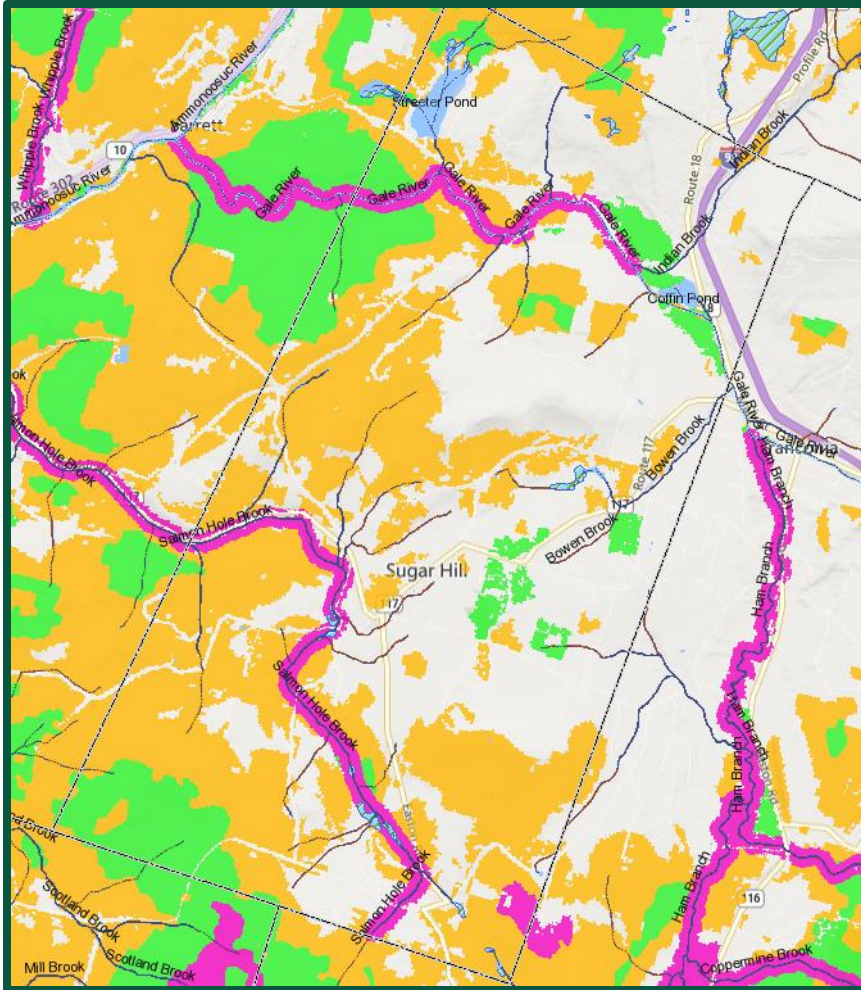
post id: 7784760850 posted: about 24 hours ago [best of](#) [7]



Sugar Hill Turtles and Conservation



Wildlife Action Plan Habitat Rankings

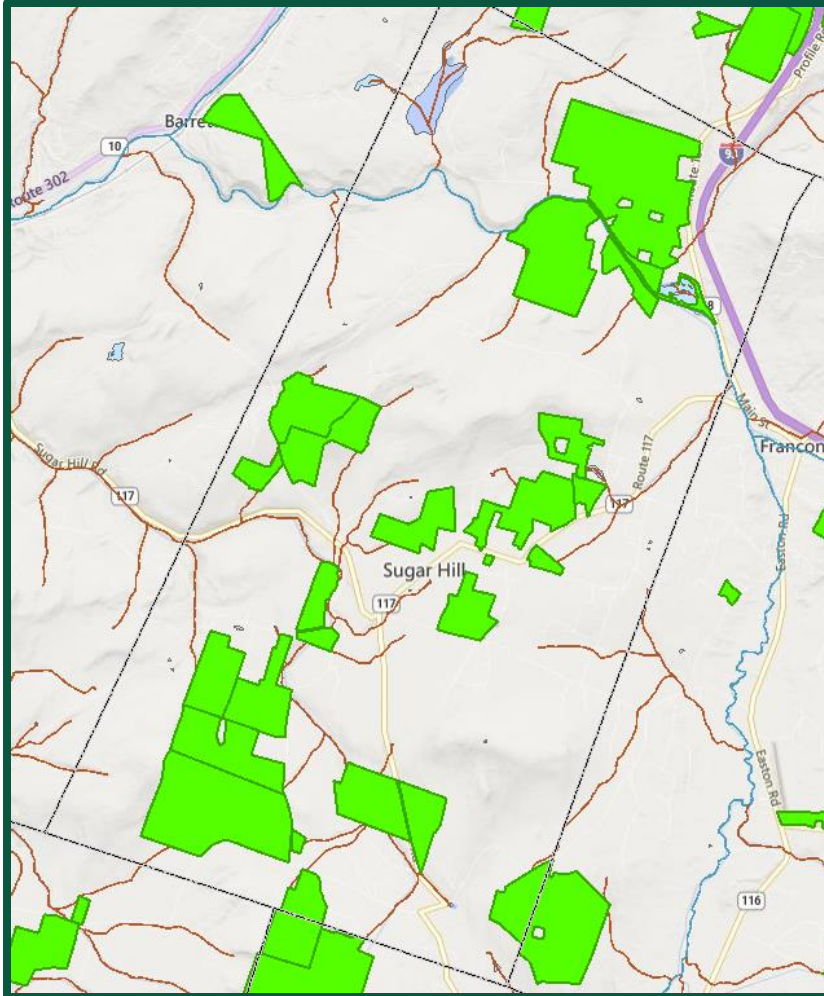


Prominent Water Features:

- **Gale River + branches**
- **Salmon Hole Brook**
- **Streeter Pond**
- **Coffin Pond**



Sugar Hill Conserved Lands



Reptile & Amphibian Reporting Program (RAARP)



New Hampshire FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

OPEN MENU



Reporting NH Reptile and Amphibian Sightings

Important Information on Reporting NH Reptile and Amphibian Sightings

Reptile and Amphibian Reporting Program (RAARP) is a program coordinated by the NH Fish and Game Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program where volunteers report sightings of reptiles and amphibians from spring peepers to snapping turtles. These reports are extremely valuable to biologists.

N.H. FISH & GAME DEPARTMENT
11 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. 03301
(603) 271-3421
wildnhs.com

REPORTING FORM

NH WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS & NH REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN REPORTING PROGRAM (RAARP)

Observers are strongly encouraged to obtain landowner permission before going onto private property.

Observer Name: _____

Street Address: _____ Town: _____

State: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

LOCATION: *It is important that we know the exact location in order for your report to be validated. Please submit GPS coordinates whenever possible.*

Town of Observation: _____ GPS Coordinates: Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____ Datum: _____

Location and Directions: *Please be specific, especially if you do not have GPS coordinates. Reference nearest road intersections, mapped landmarks, exact location within a property, etc. and attach a map if possible.*

HABITAT INFORMATION:

Dominant Habitat type: _____

Habitat Description: _____

Additional Comments: _____

SPECIES INFORMATION:

Single/Start Observation Date (mm/dd/yy): _____ End Date: _____ Additional Dates: _____

Species Name: _____

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sex: Unknown | Life Stage: Adult | # Individuals Observed: _____ |
| Sex: Unknown | Life Stage: Adult | # Individuals Observed: _____ |
| Sex: Unknown | Life Stage: Adult | # Individuals Observed: _____ |

Please use a separate form if you have more than one species to report or need to report more individuals/life stages than what the form allows. If observed at the same site and location, it is not necessary to complete the form in its entirety again.

Observation Type: *(Check all that apply)*

Seen Heard Tracks Scat Crossing Road Road kill Other Please describe: _____

Breeding Evidence or behaviors observed: *(Check all that apply)*

No evidence Observed in breeding habitat Physical appearance Courtship behavior Mating Young Eggs Laying Eggs

How was species identified? Describe physical characteristics

Which similar species did you exclude?

Did you take a photo? Yes No *If yes, please include with your submission A photo helps biologists confirm the ID of the species.*

Save completed form and email to RAARP@wildlife.nh.gov - please attach photos and maps if available!
If you prefer to provide by mail - please print, provide a map and enclose photos and mail to:
NHFG - Nongame Program, ATTN: RAARP, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord NH 03301

NGM2301 REV. 05/24

Often the only state records of herps come from these reported observations!



Questions

When do snapping turtles lay eggs?

Early May to mid-June



Questions

How long do snapping turtle eggs take to hatch?

~85 Days, give or take



Questions

What factors interfere with egg hatching?

Depredation
Nest Conditions
False nest?



Questions

When do female snapping turtles reach reproductive age?

Depends; likely 10-15 years



Questions

How do these seemingly-solitary animals reproduce?

Males territorial

Disperse in spring to find mate

Always in water



Giving Our Wild Turtles Another Chance



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE**



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Rescue • Rehabilitate • Release • Preserve



NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE

Help us save New Hampshire's Turtles!

