

SPOTTED TURTLE

Clemmys guttata
Schneider, 1792



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Reptilia

Order: Testudines

Family: Emydidae

No recognized subspecies



APPENDIX II

RARE



ENDANGERED

Identification: Very small aquatic turtle species with a rounded carapace usually not exceeding 12.5 cm in length. Head, neck, shell and legs mostly black with scattered yellow spots. Orange-yellow chin. Larger yellow blotches on neck.

Range: East Coast of North America, from South Ontario (Canada) to north Florida.

Habitat: Mostly marshes and shallow rivers with muddy bottom and adjacent mossy banks with lots of vegetation.

Behavior: Hibernation from October to March, breeds during spring. Feeds mostly on crustaceans, worms, insect larvae but also on dead fishes and amphibians.

Status in the wild: Highly endangered with very fragmented range. Vulnerable to habitat destruction, pollution and destruction of nesting sites. Alarming decline.

In captivity: This species is very rarely seen in captivity outside America and is only known from 4 collections in Europe with only a single one breeding it. It was already bred as early as 1911 by Rotterdam zoo. Fairly rare in American collections as well.