



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

Backyard Exploration Series




Turtles!



Connecticut turtles by the numbers

- 12 turtle species are found in Connecticut
- 8 turtle species are **terrestrial**
- 4 turtle species are **marine**
- 3 turtle species are **Endangered Species**
- 2 turtle species are **Threatened**
- 4 turtle species are **Species of Special Concern**





Turtles are known for their shells and also known by their shells.

- The markings on the **carapace and plastron**, are the primary way we identify turtles.
- The shell is composed of boney structures and scales termed scutes.

(Turtles cannot leave their shells.)



The shape of the shell, design on the scutes and texture of the scutes help us identify turtles.



Click on an image and match the turtle to its' name. Learn details about these species.

Images used with permission from Dennis Quinn, CT Herpetology



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Threats to turtle survival:

- Human activity- roads, machinery, fishing nets
- Over collection- as food and for pets
- Habitat loss
- Invasive species and disease
- Loss of genetic diversity
- Climate change

["Your Backyard Guide: Helping Amphibians and Reptiles"](#)



Genetic Diversity ?

- Turtle reproductive ability depends on them living in the same location for a long time.
- Do not move or relocate turtles.
- Do not release turtles from captivity to the wild, it spreads disease and increases competition for food.



Helping turtles cross the road.

Watch for turtles in the road. Help them cross in the direction they are going, if it is safe for you to do so.

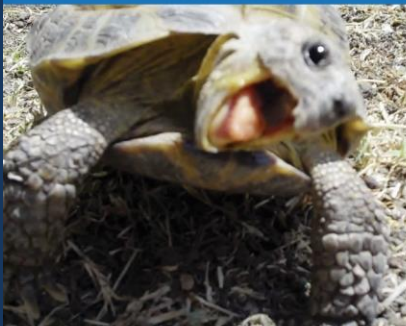
Females lay eggs May through July. They go away from their ponds and territory to make a nest and then return to their home sites. Help them cross the road, in the direction they are moving.

Photo by Paul Fusco



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SHELLEBRATE



May 23rd is annual
World Turtle Day®

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#WORLDTURTLEDAY!

May 23 is World Turtle Day. Take some time for turtles by exploring local wetlands.

- Turtle Scavenger Hunt
- Meet CT Turtle Ambassadors
- Turtle photography- Share your turtle pictures #onlineandoutside, #ctstateparks

- [Learn more about CT Turtles – CT DEEP Wildlife](#)



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