

Spotted Pond Turtle

Scientific Name: *Geoclemys hamiltonii*

Class: Reptilia

Order: Testudines

Family: Geoemydidae



The spotted pond turtle is a rare, large freshwater turtle with black ground color and white or light-yellow spots on its shell, neck and legs. A large shield, sometimes divided into three, covers the upper surface of the snout and the crown, one shield around the upper jaw and one on each side between the eye and the ear. Mature adults grow up to 14 inches in length. Its digits are webbed to the claws. The tail is extremely short. The shell is dark brown or blackish, elegantly marked with yellow spots and radiating streaks, and the soft parts are dark brown or blackish, with round yellow spots, largest on the head and neck.

Range

The range of the spotted pond turtle is Pakistan, Northern India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

Habitat

Spotted pond turtles inhabit streams, meadows, bogs and ponds

Gestation

Incubation: 60-90 days

Litter

Clutch size: 10-12

Behavior

Spotted pond turtles bask in the sunshine during the day and sleep under water at night. They prefer shallow, clear waters with considerable aquatic vegetation. They are mostly carnivorous---but will eat fruit and vegetables occasionally.

Reproduction

Courtship for spotted pond turtles usually takes place during February and March, with nesting in April and May.

Wild Diet

Snails, worms, slugs, tadpoles, fish salamanders, spiders