

land from drying billabongs to permanent pools. Further observations will be necessary to determine whether turtle predation by eagles is a localized phenomenon due to unique site characteristics at the pool, or possibly represents opportunistic scavenging.

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CHELUS FIMBRIATUS (Matamata). **REPRODUCTION.** On 21 September 2006 we found a clutch of *Chelus fimbriatus* eggs in the Caño Guaritico, at the Estación Biológica El Frío (Apure, Venezuela; UTM: 0508375 N; 0872150 W). The ten egg clutch was found at the edge of the stream (7 cm above the water level), inside a hole excavated by fishes locally called “bagres” (Loricariidae: *Hypostomus plecostomus*, *Liposarcus multiradiatus*, and *Glyptoperichthys gibbiceps*). The hole was partially collapsed by stream flow, which allowed us to find the clutch. There were no signs of depredation. The eggs were transferred to a polyurethane box filled with sand and taken to the biological station. The eggs were spherical, with a smooth, white shell. Egg diameter in this clutch ranged from 37.8 to 39.4 mm (mean 38.4 mm); egg mass ranged from 33.5 to 36.5 g (mean 34.9 g). Although the deposition date of this clutch is unknown, it is earlier than most previous reports, such as October in Colombia (Medem 1969. *Caldasia* 8:341–351) and October–November in Venezuela (González Ortiz, in Mondolfi 1955. *Memorias Sociedad Ciencias Naturales La Salle* 15:177–183; Lasso, pers. obs.). This report is apparently the earliest date for a clutch of *Chelus fimbriatus* in the wild, although in all cases the reported dates for egg laying coincide with decreasing water levels at the start of the dry season.

Clutch size reported here is smaller than clutches reported by Medem (*op. cit.*), Mondolfi (*op. cit.*) and Hausmann (1968. *Int. Turt. Tort. Soc. J.* 2[4]:18–19, 36), who note a range of 12–28 eggs. Our egg size data agree with those compiled by Pritchard and Trebbau (1984. *Turtles of Venezuela*, SSAR, Ohio), who reported that egg diameter ranged from 3.4 to 4.0 cm.

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CHRYSEMYS PICTA BELLII (Western Painted Turtle). **COLORATION.** Variations in pigmentation, independent of subspecies characteristics, have been observed in many indigenous populations of *Chrysemys picta* throughout North America. These variations have been attributed to a number of biotic and abiotic factors such as sexual cycles, age, differences in habitat quality such as minerals or tannins in the water, or variable substrate colors (Rowe et al. 2006. *Herpetol. Rev.* 37:293–298). Here we report the first published account of reticulate blue coloration in *C. picta*. On 9 September 2005, we captured a large male *C. picta bellii* (171 mm PL) in an irrigation ditch adjacent to the South Platte River in Brush, Colorado (Morgan County). In addition to the usual red and black markings, this individual displayed distinct blue reticulate coloration along the marginal scutes. This coloration was especially striking on the inframarginal scutes and bridge. These reticulate blue marking appeared to have completely replaced the yellow markings typically found on these scutes. On 28 May 2006, two other *C. picta* males (141 mm and 142 mm PL) displaying similar blue coloration, were captured in a small pond near Limon, Colorado (Elbert County) ca. 160 km S of the Morgan County location. Although reticulate melanism is well documented for older males of this subspecies (Ernst et al. 1994. *Turtles of the United States and Canada*. Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington DC. 578 pp.), it is not known if the blue reticulation pattern follows a similar pattern of expression. To date, no females have been discovered with similar coloration. Differences in habitat quality and distance between these two locations make it unlikely that environmental conditions alone would account for this unusual color pattern.

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CYCLEMYS DENTATA (Asian Leaf Turtle). **FIRE SCARS.** On 25 November 2004, during a larger study on freshwater turtles in Loagan Bunut National Park (LBNP) (03°44'–03°N, 114°09'–114°17'E), Sarawak, Malaysia, a small adult *Cyclemys dentata* (straight carapace length 130 mm) was collected, measured, and released. On the left side, marginals III–VII were damaged; scutes were partially missing, and portions of marginals V–VII missing (Fig. 1). All edges of the remaining portions of the marginals appeared to have undergone trauma presumably from exposure to fire. The injury was not new and had apparently healed.

Cyclemys dentata is known to occur in both highlands and, more commonly, in lowlands near small streams and ponds throughout Southeast Asia. Out of five individuals located at LBNP, all but one were found in secondary forest and the burnt individual was found on the eastern edge of the park, near an oil palm plantation. Fire is a common, yet controversial, tool used in the region to quickly clear brush and weeds for planting, particularly on oil palm and pulp wood plantations (Kinnaird and O'Brien 1998. *Conserv. Biol.* 12:954–956). Fires are routinely set at or near the end of the southwest monsoon, which corresponds to the dry season, and has