

revealed that two bass were in the immediate area. Both fish were about 300 mm total length. This behavior was observed for 15 minutes, and three more tadpoles were taken by the fish.

It is unknown whether or not the smallmouth bass played a role in forming the aggregation of tadpoles. No other aggregations were seen. Fourteen *R. catesbeiana* tadpoles were collected and deposited in the herpetology section of the Canadian Museum of Nature (NMC 28490).

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**RANA CLAMITANS** (Green Frog). **ALBINISM.** On 6 June 1991, an albino *Rana clamitans* tadpole was collected (Canadian Museum of Nature NMC 33885) on the Kazabazua River, Pontiac County, Quebec. The tadpole was collected in an inlet of a meandering river. Aquatic vegetation consisted of a few scattered clumps of tape grass, *Vallisneria*. Substrate consisted of a sand and gravel mixture with heavy siltation. A normally pigmented specimen of similar developmental stage was also collected at the site. Green frogs are the most common frog along the river. During eight years of observations at this site, no other abnormally pigmented tadpoles have been observed. Only one other report of albinism in this species has been located (Dyrkacz 1981. SSAR Herp. Circ. 11, 31 pp.).

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## TESTUDINES

**APALONE FEROX** (Florida Softshell). **REPRODUCTION.** Iverson (1985. Florida Sci. 48(1):41-44) reported the range for single clutch size in *Apalone ferox* as 9-24 eggs. In this note we report an unusually large single clutch size and unique nest site.

An *A. ferox* nest containing 32 eggs was discovered on 8 May 1991 in the apron of a recently abandoned *Gopherus polyphemus* burrow located at Boyd Hill Nature Park, St. Petersburg, Pinellas Co., Florida. The nearest body of water (0.186 ha) was located 103 m north. The intervening habitat is classified as scrubby flatwoods (Myers and Ewel 1990. Ecosystems of Florida. Univ. Central Florida Press, Orlando, 765 pp.). The center of the nest was located 71 cm from the burrow mouth. The egg chamber measured approximately 9 cm diam and 14 cm deep.

Sixteen of the eggs were collected, measured (to the nearest 0.5 mm using metric dial calipers), and incubated in sand collected from the nest site at outdoor ambient temperature. Egg diameter measurements on 8 May 1991 were 27.0-33.5 mm ( $\bar{x}$  = 29.4 mm, N = 16)

Hatchlings began emerging on 26 July 1991. Twelve emerged at 79 days and one at 80 days post-discovery (81.25% hatch success rate). On 28 July 1991 hatchling carapace length (measured to the nearest 0.1 mm using metric dial calipers) was 36.2-44.3 mm ( $\bar{x}$  = 41.2 mm, N = 13), carapace width at mid-point was 29.1-36.4 mm ( $\bar{x}$  = 34.2 mm, N = 13), and mass (measured to the nearest 0.1 g using a triple beam balance) was 8.4-11.0 g ( $\bar{x}$  = 9.7 g, N = 13).

The *G. polyphemus* burrow system, including its excavated sand mound, provides important habitat for a large number of vertebrates and invertebrates (Campbell and Christman 1982. In N. J. Scott, Jr. (ed.), Herpetological Communities. USFWS Wildl. Res. Rpt. 13, pp. 163-171; Jackson and Milstre 1989. In J. Diemer et al.

(eds.), Gopher Tortoise Relocation Symposium Proceedings. Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission Nongame Wildl. Prog. Tech. Rpt. No. 5, pp. 86-98). In addition, the excavated sand mound serves as an open site for seedling establishment (Laessle 1942. Univ. Florida Publ. Biol. Sci. Ser. 4(1):1-143).

Although *G. polyphemus* generally construct their nests in the excavated sand mound (Iverson 1980. Am. Midl. Nat. 103(2):353-359), this note documents another chelonian species utilizing this site for nesting and reiterates the importance of the burrow apron.

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**KINOSTERNON FLAVESCENS** (Yellow Mud Turtle). **MULTIPLE NESTING.** Dividing a clutch of eggs into two or more nests is a strategy that has been documented for very few turtle species. The Malaysian river terrapin, *Batagur baska*, divides its clutch of eggs between two or more nests (Moll 1980. Malays. J. Sci. 6:23-62). Fitch and Plummer (1975. Isr. J. Zool. 24:28-42) attributed the discrepancy between small nest complements and large oviductal complements of eggs in smooth softshell turtles (*Apalone mutica*) to division of some clutches between two or more nests.

During a 1992 radiotelemetry study of a population of *K. flavescens* in Henry Co., Illinois, two females divided clutches of eggs between two nests. One female laid two eggs in a nest on 21 June and two eggs in another 3 m away on 22 June. A second female laid 3-4 eggs in one nest on 25 June and about 2 eggs in another nest 2 m away on 26 June. Both nests were destroyed by foxes soon after deposition. Johnson (1987. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Missouri. Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri, Jefferson City, 368 pp.) reported that clutch sizes of *K. flavescens* ranged from 2-6 eggs. This estimate may be low if clutch division is a common behavior of this species.

Predation is a common source of nest mortality for turtles. Multiple nesting is a strategy which may increase nest survivorship by spreading the risk of total clutch failure to predation.

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**LEPIDOCHELYS KEMPPII** (Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle) and **CARETTA CARETTA** (Loggerhead Sea Turtle). **DIET.** Juvenile Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) sea turtles seasonally utilize Long Island Sound and the estuarine embayments of eastern Long Island, New York as feeding grounds (Burke et al. 1991. Copeia 1991:1136-1138; Morreale et al. 1992. J. Herpetol. 26:301-308). Piscivory is not commonly reported for sea turtles. Additionally, we have located only one documented case of a seahorse consumed by a sea turtle. A loggerhead stranded in Nova Scotia had a single seahorse (*Hippocampus hudsonius* = *H. erectus*) among numerous food items contained within the gut (Bleakney 1967. Can. Field Nat. 81:269-272). Since 1985 we have examined the dietary components of many sea turtles from Long Island. Here we report three Long Island turtles, two Kemp's ridleys and one loggerhead, that consumed seahorses. Seahorses in all samples represented *H. erectus*. The intestinal tract of the