

Washington, D.C. 578 pp.; Jennings and Hayes 1994. California Dept. of Fish and Game, Rancho Cordova Final Report, Contract 8023, 260 pp.; Storer 1930. Univ. California Publ. Zool. 32:429–441). Populations of *A. marmorata* in California's San Joaquin Valley are declining and it is currently listed as a California Species of Special Concern (Jennings and Hayes, *op. cit.*). However, we know little about the natural history of this species, especially the neonatal stage. Here, I report dates and locations of neonatal *A. marmorata* captures.

I trapped turtles at five sites in the northern San Joaquin Valley, California, USA, near the town of Los Baños. Los Baños Creek and Mud Slough North were in the China Island Unit of the North Grasslands Wildlife Area and Field 26, Field 42, and the Wasteway were in the Volta Wildlife Area. During 2003, Los Baños Creek was trapped from 4 April and 31 May, Mud Slough North from 5 April – 17 June, Field 26 from 1 April – 24 May, Field 42 from 22 June – 22 July, and the Wasteway from 21 May – 10 August. I captured neonate *A. marmorata* in modified eel pot traps (Casazza et al. 2000. Herpetol. Rev. 31:91–92) set to survey for Giant Garter Snakes (*Thamnophis gigas*) with 50 mm openings on either end. I placed traps 10 m apart along banks and tied them to emergent vegetation or stakes and checked them daily. I batch marked all captured neonates by clipping two V-shaped notches in the marginal scutes on each side of the nuchal scute prior to releasing them at the site of capture. I used dial calipers to measure the mid-line carapace length of three initial captures.

Mid-line carapace length of the initial 3 turtles captured were 23.8, 26.7, and 27.5 mm with additional captures being of comparable size and within the size range given for hatchling *A. marmorata* (Buskirk 2002. Radiata 11:3–30). The shells of all hatchlings caught had not yet hardened, further indicating they had emerged from the nest that year (Ernst et al., *op. cit.*). Neonate capture dates are as follows: Los Baños Creek (12 [2 captures], 20, 23 [1 recapture] April); Mud Slough North (19 April, 11 May, 12 June); Field 26 (13, 15, 19, 20 [2 captures], 22, 24, 29 [2 captures] April, 1 [recapture], 14 May); Field 42 (5 June); the Wasteway (27 June). Additional species captured included Giant Garter Snakes, Common Gartersnakes (*Thamnophis sirtalis*), Common Kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis getula*), Gopher Snakes (*Pituophis catenifer*), Bullfrog adults and tadpoles (*Rana catesbeiana*), and various unidentified voles, birds, minnows, and aquatic insects.

Because *A. marmorata* is a California Species of Special Concern it is critical to understand its life history and population dynamics. Earliest captures dates for *A. marmorata* at one site in central California (Alameda Co.) are consistent with our findings (Buskirk, *op. cit.*). Jennings and Hayes (*op. cit.*) reported no recruitment in *A. marmorata* populations in California's Central Valley. However, later research reported young turtles were caught throughout the Central Valley of California suggesting recruitment in these populations (Germano and Bury 2001. Trans. West. Sect. Wildl. Soc. 37:22–36). Understanding the habitat requirements and fates of neonates will improve future assessments of the age structure and stability of Central Valley populations.

I thank C. Dickert for project coordination, J. Brown, J. Schmidt, J. Sloan, and C. Sousa for help with field work, and G. Dayton, J. Sloan, and two anonymous reviewers for valuable comments. Project support was provided by California Department of Fish and Game, Los Baños Wildlife Area, and the Grasslands Water

District. Animals were handled under the authority of the California Endangered Species Act while I was employed with California Department of Fish and Game.

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**APALONE FEROX** (Florida Softshell Turtle). **PREDATION.** During surveys for protected species at the site of a proposed development project in Lake County, Florida, USA, a series of burrows used by Burrowing Owls (*Athene cunicularia*) was located. Earlier in the season, one of the burrows had been used for nesting by the owls. On 4 October 2001 at 1500 h, the carcass of a hatchling *Apalone ferox* was located in the mouth of the nest burrow. The fresh carcass was missing its head, anterior right leg, left forefoot, internal organs, as well as a portion of the right anterior carapace. The rest of the carcass was intact. The maximum straight-line carapace length was 29.5 mm. The closest body of water to the burrow location was an ephemeral wetland, located ca. 600 m away, which was dry and vegetated with tall grass when the carcass was found. The closest permanent water sources were approximately 2.5 and 3.5 km away in opposite directions. The specimen (UF 141547) was deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, Florida.

Observations of owls consuming turtles are uncommon. Barn owls (*Tyto* sp.) prey upon juvenile Eastern Box Turtles, *Terrapene carolina* (Ernst et al. 1994. Turtles of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington, D.C.). In addition, Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) reportedly capture hatchling Loggerhead Seaturtles (*Caretta caretta*) as they exit their nest (Toland 1991. Fla. Field Nat. 19: 117–119). Burrowing Owls are known to consume various species of insects, crabs, crayfish, frogs, toads, lizards, and snakes, small rodents, and birds (Bent 1961. Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, Part two. Dover Publications, New York. 482 pp.). To our knowledge, this is the first documentation of predation by *A. cunicularia* on a turtle.

We thank Kenneth L. Krysko of the Florida Museum of Natural History for his assistance.

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**GOPHERUS AGASSIZII** (Desert Tortoise). **DIET.** On 23 August 2004, an adult female Desert Tortoise was observed foraging on the scat of the Black-Tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) in the western Mojave Desert northeast of Barstow, San Bernardino County, California, USA. The tortoise was observed to eat three pellets, though it is unknown how many were consumed prior to initiation of observations. At widely separated locations within our study site, two separate observations of tortoise feces containing entire *L. californicus* scats were discovered, suggesting different individuals in each case. One tortoise scat was found in mid-October 2004 and contained one entire rabbit pellet. Another scat