

CHORUS

Newsletter of the Ottawa Amphibian and Reptile Association
7 Braemar St. Ottawa, Ontario K1K 3C3

Volume 2 Number 6
July 1985

Pres. - S. Darbyshire
Ed. - J. Shepstone

Wood Turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*)

by

R.A. Saumure

On June 15, Joe Shepstone and myself, left on an expedition to capture at least one wood turtle. We arrived on location at approximately 10am. There was a cloud cover of 1% and ranged up to 75% during the day. The air temperature varied from 19 to 21^{°C}; the water temperature was 16^{°C}.

With these good weather conditions, we captured 5 wood turtles. These consisted of 2 males, 2 females and one juvenile. The largest male was donated to the museum and had a carapace length of approximately 9 inches. The other male had a maximum carapace length of 174.6mm. The females were smaller: 149.3mm and 154mm. The juvenile was 101.3mm in carapace length.

Since the sun was shining on the right bank during the morning, we captured most of our specimens basking there. The bank consisted of mud or clay in the areas of captures, and had scrub willows, either in the water or hanging over the water from the banks. The females were captured on the bank, bordering the water; whereas the males were found further up on the bank.

Four of the specimens were orange in colour, and one female was more red in pigmentation. Our method of capture was crude but very effective since all the turtles

we saw were captured. We dash, with the canoe, towards it, and either use the dipnet or jump in and capture the turtle by hand. Altogether it was a great day for canoeing, collecting and discovery.

Other species captured were: *Rana clamitans* (green frog) *Rana catesbeiana* (bull frog), *Bufo americanus* (toad) and *Chrysemys picta marginata* (midland painted turtle). There were also some unidentified tadpoles.