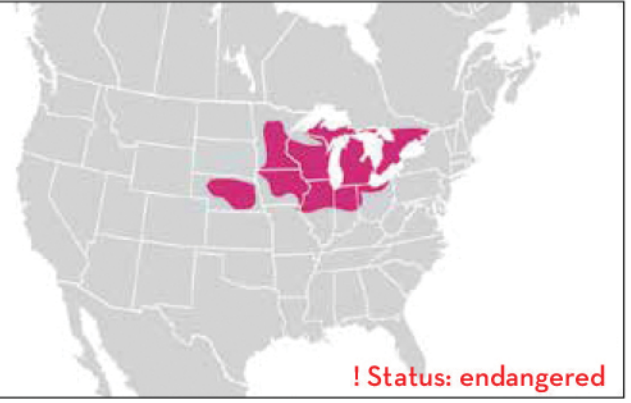


BLANDING'S TURTLE

updated March 2017



! Status: endangered

Range	Around the Great Lakes; from central Nebraska and Minnesota eastward through southern Ontario and the south shore of Lake Erie; as far east as northern New York
Habitat	Found in isolated coves and weedy bays, and further inland in shallow, marshy waters and ponds; does not occur in the main channel of rivers
Diet (wild)	Omnivorous: eats crustaceans and other invertebrates, fish, frogs, crayfish, carrion, berries, and vegetables; capable of catching live fish
Diet (captive)	
Description	Length: 7–10 inches. Bright yellow chin and throat; carapace is domed but slightly flattened along the midline. The carapace is speckled with numerous yellow or brightly colored flecks on a dark background. The lower shell (plastron) is yellow with dark blotches symmetrically arranged. The head and legs are dark and usually speckled or mottled with yellow. The plastron is hinged but cannot shut very tightly.
Lifespan	80 years
Reproduction	Average clutch size is 5–12 eggs. Clutch varies in size depending on the region. Most hatchlings will emerge after 50–75 days (in August or early September) depending on the temperature and moisture in the nest. Females may travel considerable distances from the water to find suitable nest sites. Females dig a nest cavity using alternating movements of the hind feet. This species has temperature-dependent sex determination: eggs incubated below 77° F (25° C) produce nearly all males; those incubated above 86° F (30° C) are nearly all females. Sexual maturity is reached at 14–20 years of age.
Behavior	Blanding's turtles hibernate in winter under or near water, in mud or under vegetation or debris. This turtle is very gentle and rarely attempts to bite. It is very agile and a good swimmer.
Our animals	1 male. Arrived at PPZ in 2000. Wild born in Michigan
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanding's turtles are timid and may plunge into water and remain on the bottom for hours when alarmed. • Blanding's turtles, like most other turtles, emerge to bask on sunny days. Although these turtles are quite tolerant to cold, the summer heat may restrict their activities to early morning and evening, or possibly a more nocturnal lifestyle. • As with many other species that must migrate to suitable nesting locations, fragmentation caused by roads results in the death of many Blanding's turtles every year. Because this species is slow-maturing, juvenile as well as adult survivorship must remain high to ensure this species' survival.

Phylum
ChordataClass
ReptiliaOrder
TestudinesFamily
EmydidaeGenus
Emydoideaspecies
E. blandingii