May and at that time they were small and scarce compared to the large and frequently encountered pellets containing fish, of Herring Gulls at Kawinaw Lake. Fish may have become earlier available to Herring Gulls than crayfish and insects to Ring-billed Gulls.

In summary, it seems that the abrupt and late clutch initiation of Ring-billed Gulls may be influenced by predation and food availability respectively.

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The Wood Turtle, *Clemmys insculpta* (LeConte): An Addition to the Herpetofauna of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia

The only published report of a freshwater turtle from Cape Breton Island is of a Common Snapping Turtle, *Chelydra serpentina serpentina,* taken at Port Hood and thought most likely to be an escaped captive. It is mentioned by both Bleakney (1958. A zoogeographical study of the amphibians and reptiles of eastern Canada. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 155 pp. 1–119) and Powell (1965. Zoogeography and related problems of turtles in Nova Scotia. M.Sc. Thesis, Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S. 84 pp.). Bleakney (1958) postulated that turtles never crossed to Cape Breton Island during the post-Pleistocene land connection with the mainland.

Since 1965 evidence of a natural population of the Wood Turtle, *Clemmys insculpta,* on Cape Breton Island has been gradually accumulating and now seems sufficiently conclusive to warrant published documentation. (See Figure 1).

One adult male Wood Turtle was collected in McLellan Brook, a tributary of River Inhabitants, Inverness County, Nova Scotia, on October 17, 1965, by Guy Innocent. It had a peculiar claw-like growth on its neck and was sent to Dr. Ron Sonstegard, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario.

One further observation of a Wood Turtle on Cape Breton Island was made in the summer of 1967 at Ingonish Beach, Victoria County, (approximately 76 miles northeast of River Inhabitants) by Ron Harper, then Park Naturalist, Cape Breton Highlands National Park. This specimen was released at Freshwater Lake, Victoria County. Wayne Neily (personal communication), present Park Naturalist, suggested that it probably was a released captive since no further reports have been made since that time.

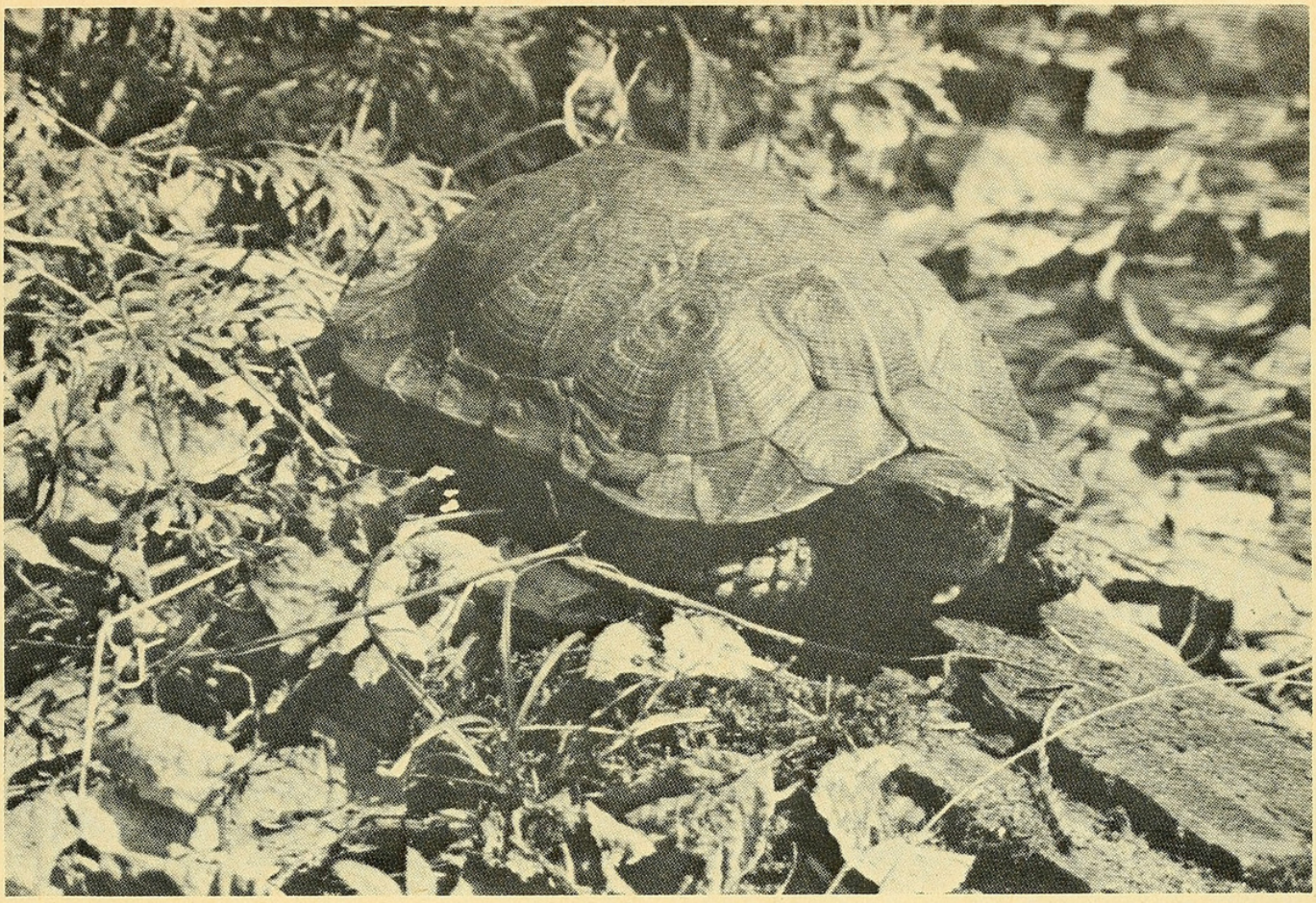

Figure 1. Wood Turtle — photograph courtesy of the National Museum of Natural Sciences Herpetology Unit.

One of us (B.G.) found a dead juvenile Wood Turtle on the Trans-Canada Highway near the bridge at McLellan Brook in May 1969, and the skeletal remains of an adult male on July 29, 1972 in a gravel pit pond near Rough Brook, also a tributary of River Inhabitants.

Three specimens, one juvenile female and two adult males, were also collected by one of us (B.G.) on July 29, 1972, near the mouth of McLellan Brook where it enters River Inhabitants. They were deposited in the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa (Catalogue Number: juvenile female, 14947; two adult males, 14948). The female was found at a place where the river was approximately 25 feet wide, but only about 8 inches deep. Here the river bottom was fine gravel. One male was found in long grass on top of a 5-foot embankment and about 20 feet from the river. The river in this area had a red clay bottom and the opposite shore was a gravel bar. The second male was dipped from the river bottom in about 3 feet of water. At this site willows and alders grew out over the water from a sloping clay bank. The slope continued under water to a depth of about 7 feet, then rose sharply to the opposite vertical bank of clay. The excrement from these three turtles indicated that they had been feeding on blueberries.

None of the Wood Turtles examined had holes drilled in the marginal scutes or any other markings frequently found on turtles held for a time in captivity.

Mrs Nellie Murrand, an elderly resident of the area, told one of us (J.G.) that Wood Turtles were common years ago at Rough Brook, and were frequently seen in the grass near her home, but she had not seen one in the last 10 years. Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, an elderly farmer of River Inhabitants, also said that Wood Turtles were seen occasionally at both Rough Brook and McLellan Brook, but were more common in River Inhabitants where it abuts his farm, and he pointed out a sandy embankment where he had accidently uncovered Wood Turtle eggs (Figure 2). In this area River Inhabitants is a slow-moving, meandering stream running through a fertile valley and is

Figure 2. Wood Turtle nesting site beside River Inhabitants.

banked mostly by alders, hayfields, and meadows. Mr. MacDonald said that although Wood Turtles were seen in the hayfields they never moved far from the river.

The number of observations, and the evidence of local inhabitants seems to establish the presence of a natural population in the River Inhabitants watershed. Thus *Clemmys insculpta* may be added to the list of amphibian and reptile species that probably spread into Nova Scotia before the post-Pleistocene land bridge to Cape Breton Island was flooded. This is the fourth species to be recorded from Cape Breton Island but not from Prince Edward Island. The three in this category which are already recorded (see F. R. Cook. 1967. An analysis of the herpetofauna of Prince Edward Island. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 212. pp. 1–60) are the Mink Frog *(Rana septentrionalis,* the Pickerel Frog (*Rana palustris*) and the Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium sculatum*).

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