

Chrysemys picta (Schneider). County Home, Lanark.

Clemmys muhlenbergii (Schoepff). Emaus, Macungie.

Clemmys insculpta (Le Conte). Mountainville, Macungie, Lehigh Gap.

Clemmys guttata (Schneider). Allentown, Lanark, Hosensack, Lehigh Gap, New Tripoli.

Terrapene carolina (Linnaeus). Mountainville, Shimerville, New Tripoli.

E. S. AND W. I. MATTERN,
Allentown, Pa.

STRAY NOTES ON TERRAPENE CAROLINA.

Dr. F. A. Lucas of the American Museum of Natural History has called the writer's attention to an account by Edmund G. Koch, Williamsport, Pa., in *Forest and Stream* for August 3, 1907, p. 170, of a Box Turtle marked in 1866, 76, 90 and still living in 1907, proving for that individual a length of life over 41 years. Probably, this is exceptional longevity for the species in its natural state. Last summer (1916), an old turtle came under the writer's observation at Mastic, Long Island, which had been initialed and dated 84, 96 and 99. This would give the turtle an age of over 32 years. It was obviously much older than the ordinary run of full grown turtles, its shell being smooth, the growth-rings on the scales which are generally noticeable, practically obliterated by wear. It was small for an adult, the plastron $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches long. Excellent photographs of this specimen are on file in the American Museum of Natural History, New York. The writer has seen another old Box Turtle of moderate size (plastron $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches), taken at Mastic, 1914, marked W. F. 92, which would give it an age of at least 22 years. Mr. William Flowd of Mastic whose initials also ac-

company the 84 on the 32-year turtle, marked a number of them at that period, and agrees that there is every reason to believe in the authenticity of the dating on both. Another pretty surely authentic one taken recently, July 1, 1917, was marked C. R. [Charles Ross] 04, making it over 13 years old. This last had the growth-rings on the scales about half obliterated. It evidently had not grown since marked, and was a small individual with the plastron $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

The Box Turtle is numerous at Mastie, and during the past three or four years a number have been marked with the idea that the ability to recognize individuals might bring out interesting points concerning growth or habits. Very few have been found a second time.

One which was picked up July 15, 1916, perhaps one-half mile from the house, and liberated at the house on the following day, was found again on June 9, 1917, near its original locality.

One found and liberated near the house on July 9, 1916, was found in the same locality on July 5, 1917.

On June 18, 1916, one was taken on a bay meadow about one mile from the house, an unusually wet locality for the species, and liberated at the house. September 4th of the same year, it was found swimming along the bay side of the same meadow close under the bank.

Perhaps some reader of COPEIA can furnish further information as to whether individual Box Turtles have definite narrow territories which they frequent and to which they will return. The above instances are so few that they may be due to coincidence. The *Forest and Stream* article already referred to speaks of the faithfulness of an old turtle to one narrow locality.

As regards this species' habit of eating mushrooms, Latham says (COPEIA No. 34), that at Orient *Russula obscurus* is devoured almost exclusively.

On June 25, 1916, a Box Turtle was taken at the edge of a Mastic wood road beside a large *Boletus scaber* of which it had eaten a considerable portion of the side. This particular *Boletus* is said to be an excellent table species.

Fifty-three more or less full-grown Box Turtles which have been measured at Mastic had plastron length.

4 $\frac{1}{2}$	to	4 $\frac{5}{8}$	inches	.....	2
4 $\frac{3}{4}$	"	4 $\frac{7}{8}$	"	.....	10
5	"	5 $\frac{1}{8}$	"	.....	10
5 $\frac{1}{4}$	"	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	"	.....	15
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	5 $\frac{5}{8}$	"	.....	13
5 $\frac{3}{4}$	"	5 $\frac{7}{8}$	"	.....	3

J. T. NICHOLS,
New York, N. Y.



Nichols, John T. 1917. "Stray Notes on Terrapene Carolina." *Copeia* 46, 66–68.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/1435662>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/53398>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/1435662>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/85712>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.