

Journal Review ⁽¹⁾

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

Main menu

Eastern Snapping Turtle sightings on the rise



(/uploads/original/20191009-185436-8c7a90250b10fa26fbe745c9b163f584.jpg)

Ashley Adair is the Montgomery County Extension Educator, Ag and Natural Resource. The office is at 400 Parke Ave., Crawfordsville; 364-6363. She may be reached by email at holmes9@purdue.edu.

Posted Friday, May 31, 2019 9:15 pm

Turtles are on the move. Sightings of a few different kinds of turtles are increasing as we head deeper into spring and eventually into the beginnings of summer. Just in the last few days, we have been seeing an abundance of snapping turtles, one of the largest turtles found in the Midwest.

Eastern snapping turtle seen resting near a busy street in West Lafayette. Notice the long tail characteristic of this species.

The Eastern snapping turtle, *Chelydra serpentina serpentine*, is second only to the alligator snapping turtle in size. Snappers average about 20-25 pounds and can reach anywhere from 8-20 inches in size as adults. Alligator snappers, which are much larger and scarier looking, can reach 200 pounds. Alligator snappers are not typically found in Indiana except in the extreme southern tip of the state.

Snapping turtles typically inhabit a wide variety of aquatic areas. They are commonly found in streams, lakes, ponds and bays, especially in and around heavy vegetation. This species is not a basker, unlike many of our other common turtles (like softshells, map turtles and red-eared sliders). You may occasionally see one float to the surface of a pond to catch some rays, but they are not the type to climb atop a log and bask

for hours in the warm summer sun. Snapping turtles often have moss and other plant material on their backs because of their habit of staying submerged much of the time.

Snappers are getting out and about as egg laying season kicks into full gear. We will be seeing more traveling long distances as females seek out sandy places to build nests and lay eggs. This will inevitably cause conflict on the roadway as turtles attempt to cross streets and roads to potential nesting sites. Conflict could potentially result in injury or death of the turtle, primarily by cars on the roadway. Some conflict also results in bites to humans who get too close.

The snapping turtle is known for its powerful bite, which is made possible by its sharp "beak." A bite from a snapping turtle can be very painful, and it can be difficult to remove appendages from its powerful jaws. Snapping turtles typically use these jaws to eat anything that can fit in their mouth, including plants, snails, spiders, small fish, snakes, other turtles and even the occasional unsuspecting bird.

Generally, handling a snapping turtle should be avoided, because their long necks can bend around and snag fingers and hands that are simply attempting to help. However, if you must handle any turtle, never grab them by their tails, which are not designed to support the weight of the turtle. Always grasp them by the rear part of their carapace, on either side of the tail, and move them in the direction they were originally traveling in.

If you are curious about other turtles found in Indiana and want to learn more, check out Purdue Extension's publication Turtles of Indiana, FNR-243.

Comments

NO COMMENTS ON THIS STORY | PLEASE LOG IN TO COMMENT BY CLICKING HERE (/LOGIN.HTML)

OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU

[MCUF Donates to Agencies \(/stories/mcuf-donates-to-agencies,106291\)](/stories/mcuf-donates-to-agencies,106291)

[Lil Reader \(/stories/lil-reader,104107\)](/stories/lil-reader,104107)

[Survey: Hoosiers can expect Thanksgiving meal to cost less \(/stories/survey-hoosiers-can-expect-thanksgiving-meal-to-cost-less,104064\)](/stories/survey-hoosiers-can-expect-thanksgiving-meal-to-cost-less,104064)

[Thankful for many 4-H scholarship opportunities \(/stories/thankful-for-many-4-h-scholarship-opportunities,104013\)](/stories/thankful-for-many-4-h-scholarship-opportunities,104013)

RECENT NEWS

Russian lawmakers OK Putin's constitutional proposals (/stories/russian-lawmakers-ok-putins-constitutional-proposals,110922)

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian lawmakers on Thursday quickly gave preliminary approval to a slew of constitutional changes widely seen as an attempt by President Vladimir Putin to remain in charge after his ...

Weinstein trial turns to accusers, starting with Sciorra (/stories/weinstein-trial-turns-to-accusers-starting-with-sciorra,110923)

'Who is she?' - US Treasury chief takes swipe at Thunberg (/stories/who-is-she-us-treasury-chief-takes-swipe-at-thunberg,110912)

AP Explains: Why US troop cuts in Africa would cause alarm (/stories/ap-explains-why-us-troop-cuts-in-africa-would-cause-alarm,110918)

Migrant parents separated from kids since 2018 return to US (/stories/migrant-parents-separated-from-kids-since-2018-return-to-us,110913)

JOURNAL REVIEW LIVE

Your new home is waiting.
CLICK HERE.

DAVIS
MORRISON
REALTY

RESIDENTIAL • FARMS
COMMERCIAL

765-362-5878

(https://crawfordsvillebanners.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/ck.php?oaparams=2__bannerid=2__zoneid=17__cb=b416273f54__oadest=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.davismorrison.com%2F)

Journal Review ⁽¹⁾

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

Main menu

Don't get ticked this spring



(/uploads/original/20191009-185944-8c7a90250b10fa26fbe745c9b163f584.jpg)

Ashley Adair is the Montgomery County Extension Educator, Ag and Natural Resource. The office is at 400 Parke Ave., Crawfordsville; 364-6363. She may be reached by email at holmes9@purdue.edu.

Posted Friday, May 10, 2019 9:15 pm

It might have been a cool, wet spring so far, but it's prime time for many insects, spiders and mites to become active once again. I saw my first mosquito of the year on a warm day in early April, and while mushroom hunting the last couple of weeks, I saw my first six-spotted tiger beetle of the year. All this activity means that we have to become more vigilant for one of my least favorite 8-legged creatures of all: the tick.

While getting outdoors during the warm months this year, it is important to recognize not only where ticks are most likely found but also what to do if you have been bitten by a tick. Ticks are found, very generally, in vegetation. You might think they drop out of trees in the woods (which is why you're supposed to wear a hat when walking in the woods, right?), but they are actually found in trees, shrubs and plants on the forest floor. Even more commonly, they are found at forest edges in grasses and other tall brush. Using a behavior called "questing," ticks sit at the end of a branch or blade of grass, latching on with their back legs. Then they while extend their front legs into the air, where an unsuspecting human, dog, deer or rodent might be traipsing by. Once a leg catches skin or fur, they are yanked off of the vegetation and free to move about its next potential host.

Ticks seek out a place to bite and latch on after their "questing" is completed. Typically, ticks do not transfer disease until they've been latched on for more than 24 hours. If you find a tick on yourself or a pet after being outdoors, the best course of action is to use a good pair of tweezers to remove it. To remove a tick safely, grasp with the tweezers directly on the mouth and pull directly away from the body. Using removal methods like heating with a lighter or swabbing on isopropyl alcohol may cause the tick to "spit up," which increases the likelihood of disease transfer. Once the tick is removed, place it in a plastic bag and freeze in the freezer. It's a good idea to keep the tick on hand in case you develop symptoms of tick-borne disease.

Dog ticks carry Rocky Mountain spotted fever and the tiny deer tick can transmit Lyme disease. Both of these ticks are commonly found in Indiana, and both of these diseases are serious conditions that require prompt treatment. For more information about these and other bug-borne diseases, the Centers for Disease Control and the Montgomery County Health Department are great resources! For more information on how to identify the type of tick you find outdoors, please refer to the Purdue Extension publication E-71-W.

Comments

NO COMMENTS ON THIS STORY | PLEASE LOG IN TO COMMENT BY CLICKING HERE (/LOGIN.HTML)

OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU

MCUF Donates to Agencies (/stories/mcuf-donates-to-agencies,106291)

Lil Reader (/stories/lil-reader,104107)

Survey: Hoosiers can expect Thanksgiving meal to cost less (/stories/survey-hoosiers-can-expect-thanksgiving-meal-to-cost-less,104064)

Thankful for many 4-H scholarship opportunities (/stories/thankful-for-many-4-h-scholarship-opportunities,104013)

RECENT NEWS

Russian lawmakers OK Putin's constitutional proposals (/stories/russian-lawmakers-ok-putins-constitutional-proposals,110922)

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian lawmakers on Thursday quickly gave preliminary approval to a slew of constitutional changes widely seen as an attempt by President Vladimir Putin to remain in charge after his ...

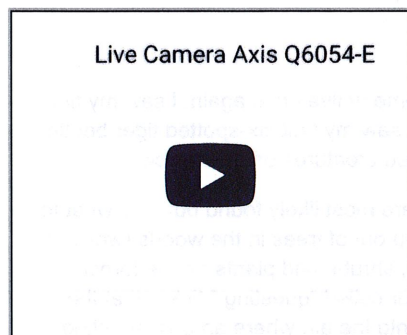
Weinstein trial turns to accusers, starting with Sciorra (/stories/weinstein-trial-turns-to-accusers-starting-with-sciorra,110923)

'Who is she?' - US Treasury chief takes swipe at Thunberg (/stories/who-is-she-us-treasury-chief-takes-swipe-at-thunberg,110912)

AP Explains: Why US troop cuts in Africa would cause alarm (/stories/ap-explains-why-us-troop-cuts-in-africa-would-cause-alarm,110918)

Migrant parents separated from kids since 2018 return to US (/stories/migrant-parents-separated-from-kids-since-2018-return-to-us,110913)

JOURNAL REVIEW LIVE



Marie Canine Plaza (/stories/marie-canine-plaza,103138)



(https://crawfordsvillebanners.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/ck.php?

oaparams=2__bannerid=31__zoneid=7__cb=2baab4177a__oadest=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Ffile%2F%2F1yoZv_OgH-vN_izdK75vQcTe4a6TAvKkM%2Fview%3Fusp%3Dsharing)