

Testudines

COURTSHIP SEASON - When is the courtship season for this species?

Species	Common Name	Courtship Season
Cheloniidae	sea turtles	
<i>Caretta c. caretta</i>	Atlantic loggerhead	[mating] may in fact occur several months before the turtles arrive at the nesting beach (LeBuff 1990); [matings] have been recorded from late March to June..in North American waters (Caldwell 1959; Fritts et al. 1983; Bearse 1985; Henwood 1987)
<i>Chelonia m. mydas</i>	Atlantic green turtle	mating occurs during the laying season in the water off the nesting beaches (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Eretmochelys i. imbricata</i>	Atlantic hawksbill	mating has been observed in the shallow waters off nesting beaches (Carr 1954; Caldwell and Rathjen 1969; Carr and Stancyk 1975; Carr et al. 1978)...whether it also occurs elsewhere in open water or at feeding sites is unknown (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Kemp's ridley or Atlantic ridley	mating probably occurs off the nesting beach [from April to July] (Ernst et al. 1994)
Dermochelyidae	leatherback sea turtles	
<i>Dermochelys c. coriacea</i>	Atlantic leatherback	mating was thought to occur in tropical waters at the time of nesting, but may actually take place prior to or during the migration from temperate to tropical waters (Eckert and Eckert 1988)
Chelydridae	snapping turtles	
<i>Chelydra s. serpentina</i>	eastern snapping turtle	mating occurs from April to November (Ernst et al. 1994)
Emydidae	pond turtles	
<i>Chrysemys p. picta</i>	eastern painted turtle	Mar - June, Aug - Sept (Ernst 1971a)
<i>Chrysemys p. marginata</i>	midland painted turtle	Mar - June, Aug - Sept (Ernst 1971a)
<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	spotted turtle	courtship behavior in Pennsylvania begins in March and lasts into June (Ernst 1970, 1982; Ernst and Zug 1994)
<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	wood turtle	Apr - Oct (Ernst et al. 1994, Kaufmann 1992b); mating can occur at any time during the active season but peaks are evident in the spring and the fall (Ernst et al. 1994)

<i>Clemmys muhlenbergii</i>	bog turtle	mating usually occurs in the afternoon from March to June with most activity in the first two months (Zappalorti 1976; Arndt 1977, 1986; Holub and Bloomer 1977; Ernst pers. obs.)
<i>Deirochelys r. reticularia</i>	eastern chicken turtle	May to July, based on testicular volume (Gibbons 1969)
<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding's turtle	courtship and mating have been observed in every month from March to November, but are most common from March to July (Conant 1951; Graham and Doyle 1979; Vogt 1981)
<i>Graptemys geographica</i>	northern map turtle	Spring (Mar-May?) and Fall (Sept-Nov?) (Evermann and Clark 1916; Ernst and Barbour, pers. obs.)
<i>Graptemys ouachitensis</i>	Ouachita map turtle	Apr, Oct, and Nov in WI (Vogt 1980)
<i>Malaclemys terrapin terrapin</i>	northern diamond-backed terrapin	Mar. and Apr. in Brevard Co., FL (Seigel 1980b)
<i>Pseudemys c. concinna</i>	eastern river cooter	Spring-- Mar-May? (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Pseudemys c. floridana</i>	coastal plain cooter	late Apr or May (Dundee and Rossman 1989)
<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>	northern red-bellied cooter	Spring (Mar-May?) (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Terrapene c. carolina</i>	eastern box turtle	May through October (see citations in Ernst et al. 1994, p. 260)
<i>Trachemys s. scripta</i>	yellow-bellied slider	July-Dec in northern Alabama based on teste size (Lovich et al. 1990)
<i>Trachemys s. elegans</i>	red-eared slider	Spring, Fall, and Winter (Mitchell 1994)
<i>Trachemys s. troosti</i>	cumberland slider	Spring, Fall, and Winter (Mitchell 1994)
Kinosternidae	mud and musk turtles	
<i>Kinosternon s. subrubrum</i>	eastern mud turtle	mating occurs from mid-March through May (Ernst et al. 1994)
<i>Kinosternon baurii</i>	striped mud turtle	May (Carr 1940)
<i>Sternotherus minor peltifer</i>	stripeneck musk turtle	mating activities have been observed in nature on 15 March, 25 April, 8 September, and 26 November (Cox et al. 1980)
<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	stinkpot or common musk turtle	Courtship and mating occur sporadically through-out the year, with peaks in the spring and fall. Most mating occurs in April and May (Ernst 1986a) before the nesting period. A second period of mating occurs in September and October but may extend into December (Ernst et al. 1994)
Trionychidae	softshell turtles	
<i>Apalone m. mutica</i>	midland smooth softshell	courtship behavior was observed in Kansas by Plummer (1977a) in April-June and August (Ernst et al. 1994); mating occurs after emergence from hibernation (Plummer and Shirer 1975)

<i>Apalone s. spinifera</i>	eastern spiny softshell	mating occurs in April or May (Ernst et al. 1994)
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Courtship Season Codes: Specify range of months