



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND NATURE AT HOME

 **AUDUBON Kids**

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TAKE TIME FOR TURTLES

Many Audubon wildlife refuges include wetland habitats such as ponds, creeks, swamps and marshes.

Sneak quietly up to the edge of the water and watch for turtles enjoying the sun.

Check out this website to learn more!

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/turtles.pdf>

On the forest floor, the well-camouflaged **Eastern Box Turtle** may be found in leaf litter or a rotten log when it is hot. If you get too close, he will pull himself in and close up his shell like a box!



Northern Diamond-backed Terrapins live in brackish water of coastal wetlands and eat sea creatures like periwinkles and crabs. Here in Rhode Island, dedicated people are working to protect the habitats and nesting sites of this endangered reptile.



Don't mess with that **HUGE** turtle in the lake! **Eastern Snapping Turtles** resemble dinosaurs with dark, craggy shells and can weigh up to 35 pounds. Snappers (like most other turtles) are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals such as insects, fish and worms.



You may be lucky and spy a "polka-dotted" turtle in shallow swamps and marshes. Like all aquatic turtle species, female **Spotted Turtles** lay their eggs on land. If you help a turtle cross the road, please don't take her home! You can help by pointing her back in the same direction that she was headed.



Eastern Painted Turtles bask on rocks and logs in muddy wetlands. Look for their shiny black shells and red and yellow markings. If they hear you...plop, plop, plop...into the water they will go!



SPECIES FOUND IN RHODE ISLAND

Eastern Box Turtle, Eastern Painted Turtle, Spotted Turtle, Stinkpot or Musk Turtle, Eastern Snapping Turtle, Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin, Wood Turtle.

David Uliss