

# Blanding's Turtle

**Scientific Name:** *Emydoidea blandingii*

**Class:** Reptilia

**Order:** Testudines

**Family:** Emydidae



The carapace (upper shell) of blanding's turtle is elongated and neither keeled nor serrated. It is predominantly a dull charcoal color, varying from black speckled with yellow to black with yellow markings. The plastron (under shell) is yellow and hinged. It is connected to the carapace by ligaments. The flattened head is moderate in size with a non-protruding snout, a notched upper jaw, and protruding eyes. The neck is very long, and the feet are webbed. Males have dark pigmentation on the upper jaw, and females have yellow upper jaws. Females also have longer plastra and higher carapaces than males. The throat and lower jaw are yellow. This turtle grows to a maximum length of 9½ inches.

---

## Range

Provinces and states bordering the Great Lakes

## Habitat

Lakes, ponds, marshes, creeks, wet prairies and sloughs

## Gestation

Incubation: 50 to 80 days, depending on temperature

## Litter

Clutch: 3 to 27 eggs

## Behavior

Blanding's turtle begins hibernation in the fall when the water temperature falls to about 6 to 13 degrees Celsius. It hibernates in mud or trash either in or near the water. It emerges from hibernation in very early spring. This is a timid turtle, hiding in the water or closing into its shell when on land. It is most active in the morning, either feeding or basking. During the night it sleeps in underwater vegetation. It also likes to wander over land.

## Reproduction

Mating of Blanding's turtles takes place from March to October (any time it is not hibernating). Males and females both do not become sexually mature until in their teens. The female will usually lay one clutch of eggs per year in a soft ground-based nest. The sex of egg embryos is temperature dependent. Males are produced at incubation temperatures of 23 to 26 degrees Celsius, while females are produced at 30 to 31 degrees Celsius. In the middle of the range both sexes are created.

## Wild Diet

Omnivorous, but mainly crustaceans and insects