## *Turtles at Borderland*

*Southeastern Massachusetts is home to several species of turtles, including the rare Plymouth Red-Bellied Turtle.*

Turtles that have been seen at Borderland include the Blandings Turtle, Snapping Turtle, Spotted Turtle, Eastern Box Turtle and Painted Turtle. Good places to look include Lily Bay and the Pond Edge Trail.

--Christine King, Park Interpreter, Borderland State Park

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## Blandings Turtle

The Blandings Turtle, 7 to 8 in. long, has a bright yellow chin and prominent yellow markings on the plastron. It prefers water but it also lives in marshes, where it feeds on insects, worms and various plants.

## Musk Turtle

The Musk Turtle, 3 to 5 in. long, has a dark brown domed shell, yellow lines on the face and a pointed nose. They ooze a smelly musk in defense.

## Bog Turtle

The tiny Bog Turtle, 3 to 4 in. long, is dark brown above and brown with yellow below. It lives in bogs and wet meadows, eats worms and insects.

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# *Turtle Watch*

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## Borderland State Park

**INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM**

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## Painted Turtle

The Painted Turtle, our most common turtle, is 5 to 8 in. long and has a smooth dark upper shell (carapace) with bright red and yellow markings. They live in shallow muddy fresh water, and feed on plants, fish, aquatic insects, crustaceans. They bask in groups on logs or rocks.

## Spotted Turtle

The Spotted Turtle, 3 to 5 in. long, has round orange or yellow spots on a smooth black carapace. It lives in quiet water, feeding on insects, tadpoles and dead fish. The tail of the male is about twice as long as that of the female.

## Wood Turtle

The Wood Turtle, 6 to 10 in. long, has a rough "sculptured" carapace and a yellow-and-black plastron. It lives in close association with moving water. It eats leaves, flowers, fruits, snails, worms and insects. (photo © A.B.Sheldon)

## Snapping Turtle

The Snapping Turtle is large – 18 in. long or more - common and dangerous. They prefer quiet muddy water, and eat fish and small waterfowl.

## Plymouth Red-Bellied Turtle

The Plymouth Red-Bellied Turtle is rare and endangered. Adults are 11 to 14 in. long, with a yellow-striped neck and a pink (male) or orange-red (female) plastron. They eat water plants, algae and tadpoles.
(photo © John White)

## Eastern Box Turtle

The Eastern Box Turtle, about 7 in, long, has a high-domed carapace with yellow markings. It lives in woods, eats snails, insects, fruit and fungi.