



## Bog Turtle: *Glyptemys muhlenbergii*

### State Endangered

**THE BOG TURTLE IS A PROTECTED SPECIES IN VIRGINIA:**  
**It is unlawful to HARM, COLLECT, OR POSSESS THESE**  
**TURTLES unless one is permitted to do so.**

To apply for a permit please see  
[www.dwr.virginia.gov/permits](http://www.dwr.virginia.gov/permits)



Bright blotch behind the eye, which may be orange to yellow or red.



Bottom shell (plastron)

Bog Turtles are Endangered in Virginia and listed federally Threatened due to similarity of appearance. Bog turtles are North America's smallest turtle (up to 4 inches adult shell length) and are semiaquatic, found in boggy wetlands with open-canopy, sedges, sphagnum moss and deep mucky layers of organic soil with small rivulets of flowing water. The upper shell (or carapace) is light brown to mahogany or black and is slightly domed with a low keel. The bottom shell (or plastron) is mostly black with some irregular yellow to cream-colored blotches. Bog turtles have a conspicuous orange to yellow or red blotch behind each eye.

If you have any questions concerning Bog Turtles or have encountered one and need assistance, please contact John (JD) Kleopfer, Herpetologist, Department of Wildlife Resources, at 804-829-6703 or [John.Kleopfer@dwr.virginia.gov](mailto:John.Kleopfer@dwr.virginia.gov).