

New Distribution Records for Painted Turtles, *Chrysemys picta*, from Northwestern and Northeastern Ontario

WAYNE F. WELLER

7038 Kelly Drive, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2H 3J9 Canada

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Records of Western Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*) in northwestern Ontario and of Midland Painted Turtle (*C. p. marginata*) in northeastern Ontario extend the documented range northward. Two records of *C. p. marginata* represent the first records for the Timiskaming District.

Key Words: Western Painted Turtle, *Chrysemys picta bellii*, Midland Painted Turtle, *C. p. marginata*, distribution, Ontario.

Fieldwork in June 2008 in northwestern Ontario and in May 2008 and June 2010 in northeastern Ontario yielded new distribution records for Painted Turtles (*Chrysemys picta*); these records represent localities beyond the known northern documented range (Oldham and Weller 2000*). Localities were recorded with a Garmin GPS in NAD83 format, and are presented in Figure 1 in a north to south order. Digital photographs were taken and deposited as vouchered records in the herpetological collection of the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Toronto, Ontario. The identification of photographs was verified by Ross D. MacCulloch. Nomenclature follows the Society for Study of Amphibians and Reptiles Committee on Standard English and Scientific Names (Crother 2008).

Chrysemys picta bellii (Western Painted Turtle)

ONTARIO: KENORA DISTRICT, north of Stone River on Highway 105, 14.7 km south-southeast of the town of Red Lake (50.89873°N, 93.73395°W). 17 June 2008. W. F. Weller. ROM photographic voucher 46449. Adult female found crossing asphalt road at 1655 h. KENORA DISTRICT, Ear Falls Township, Caribou Creek, 29.6 km southeast of the town of Red Lake (50.86359°N, 93.48141°W). 16 June 2008. W. F. Weller. ROM (photographic voucher) 46448. Adult observed basking on a floating log in creek at 1450 h.

Documented records of *C. p. bellii* in Kenora District west of Dryden are represented by six localities (Figure 1; left side, north to south, open circles): Domain Lake, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park – September 1985, Canadian Museum of Nature (CMNAR) 28089; Highway 525, 9 km north of Wabaseemoong First Nation community – May 1994, ROM (photographic voucher) 46447; town of Malachi, ROM 9411; ca. 3 km northwest of town of Keewatin – August 1963, CMNAR 7340; Twin Lake, Highway 17, west of the town of Kenora – June 1983, CMNAR 24652; and Blindfold Lake, ca. 15 km southeast of Kenora – July 1976, CMNAR 18568.

ROM 46448 and 46449 represent the most northern documented records east of 94°W longitude in Ontario and the first for the Red Lake area, contrary to the Ontario Herpetofaunal Atlas (Oldham and Weller

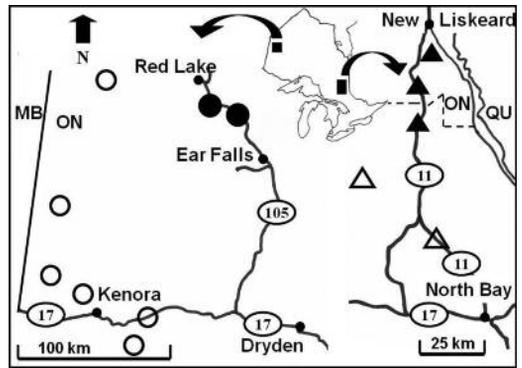


FIGURE 1. Map showing localities for *Chrysemys picta bellii* in northwestern Ontario (circles) and for *C. p. marginata* in northeastern Ontario (triangles). Solid symbols represent documented records reported in this paper, and open symbols, previous documented records. Details of localities provided in text. Dotted line in northeastern Ontario section (New Liskeard to North Bay) of map represents the approximate boundary between Timiskaming District (north) and Nipissing District (south). MB = Manitoba; ON = Ontario; QU = Québec.

2000*). They are ca. 62 km more easterly than the Domain Lake record and ca. 123 km more northerly than the Twin Lake record. With additional fieldwork, it is certain that *C. p. bellii* will be documented at more northern locations than presented here. Periodic observations have been made over 15 years (1993–2008) in the Red Lake area and north along the Nungesser Road (Oldham and Weller 2000*; N. Dawson, personal communication).

Chrysemys picta marginata (Midland Painted Turtle)

ONTARIO: TIMISKAMING DISTRICT, Coleman Township Municipality, 2.2 km south-southeast of the town of Cobalt Post Office (47.37814°N, 79.67000°W). 17 June 2010. W. F. Weller. ROM (photographic voucher) dm00269. One adult observed basking at 1230 h on a log at the western shoreline of an unnamed mine tailings pond. TIMISKAMING DISTRICT, Gillies, 7.5 km



FIGURE 2. Basking Midland Painted Turtle, unnamed pond 2.2 km south-southeast of Cobalt, 17 June 2010. W. F. Weller (Royal Ontario Museum, photographic voucher, dm00269).

southeast of the town of Latchford (47.26811°N, 79.77426°W). 29 May 2008. W. F. Weller. ROM (photographic voucher) 46450. Five adults observed basking on grassy shoreline of a small lake at 0910 h. NIPISSING DISTRICT, Strathy Township, 1.3 km north of the town of Temagami (47.07832°N, 79.79232°W). 29 May 2008. W. F. Weller. ROM (photographic voucher) 46451. Three adults observed basking on two logs in pond at 1005 h.

Documented records of *C. p. marginata* in north-eastern Ontario are represented by only two localities in Nipissing District (Figure 1; right side, north to south, open triangles): Lake Temagami – July 1930, ROM 2345-46; and 5.1 km north of Tomiko on Highway 11 – June 1983, CMNAR 24562.

ROM 46451 represents the most northern documented record in Nipissing District. ROM 46450 and ROM dm00269 represent the first documented records in Timiskaming District. Located ca. 58 km north of the Lake Temagami record, ROM dm00269 is the most northern documented record in northeastern Ontario. With future surveys, additional observations of *C. p. marginata* are likely to be made in more northern areas of Timiskaming District since, to the east in Québec, Painted Turtles occur north of 48°N (Bider and Matte 1996; Desroches and Rodrigue 2004).

Records of both Painted Turtle subspecies reported here extend the known ranges northward from those limits reported in Bleakney (1958), Schueler (1976), and Conant and Collins (1998).

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