



Reforming Herp Laws and Regs in Georgia

A bald eagle is shown in flight, wings spread wide, against a blurred background of a blue sky and a body of water. The eagle is positioned in the center of the slide, behind the text.

John Jensen
Wildlife Biologist



27-1-28. Taking of nongame species.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, rule, or regulation, it shall be unlawful to hunt, trap, fish, take, possess, or transport any nongame species of wildlife, except that the following species may be taken by any method except those specifically prohibited by law or regulation:

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- (2) Mice;
- (3) Coyotes;
- (4) Armadillos;
- (5) Groundhogs;
- (6) Beaver;
- (7) Fresh-water turtles;
- (8) Poisonous snakes;
- (9) Frogs;
- (10) Spring lizards;
- (11) Fiddler crabs;
- (12) Fresh-water crayfish;
- (13) Fresh-water mussels; and
- (14) Nutria.





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- (14) Nutria.





The "Spring Lizard" Bait Industry in the State of Georgia, USA

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The term "spring lizard" is a colloquialism used by residents of the Appalachian Mountain region and refers to salamanders sold as bait for fishing. Obviously, this contradictory synonymy can create confusion for fishermen and bait dealers when communicating with biologists and wildlife agency personnel, and vice versa. Nowhere is this more apparent than within the arena of wildlife law and regulation. Although collection and personal bait use of all salamanders not listed as endangered, threatened, or in need of management is permitted in the state, Tennessee law (TN WRCR 1660-1-17-.01B) allows for the sale (as bait) of only "dusky salamanders, *Desmognathus fuscus*" (Levell 1997). However, casual surveys of eastern Tennessee bait shops advertising "spring lizards" found at least seven other salamander species being sold, including *Desmognathus quadramaculatus* (P. Wyatt, pers. comm.), which is further protected as a species "In Need of Management" (Levell 1997). Georgia law (O.C.G.A. 27-1-28) lists "spring lizards," as one of fourteen groups of nongame wildlife exempt from any type of protection. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources does not interpret this portion of the law as including true lizards (Sauria) or salamanders other than *Desmognathus* spp., however the absence of a "spring lizard" definition may create a legal loophole providing little enforcement power for the protection of true lizards or non-desmognathine salamander species. Only those salamander species state-listed as endangered, threatened, or rare (*Ambystoma cingulatum*, *Amphiuma pholeter*, *Aneides aeneus*, *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*, *Holbrookia wallacei*,

Notophthalmus perstriatus, and *Plethodon petraeus*) are ensured legal protection. No species of lizards are currently listed as endangered, threatened, or rare.

In an effort to determine which species of salamanders are typically sold as bait in Georgia, and therefore provide a better definition of what should be considered legally commercialized species of bait salamanders, spring lizard bait boxes of nine shops in the north Georgia mountains (including Fannin, Forsyth, Habersham, Hall, Rabun, Towns, and Whitfield counties) were inventoried. Further, bait dealers were casually interviewed on various aspects of the spring lizard industry to gain a better understanding of its potential impacts. Visits were made on 29 May 1997 and 9 April 1998. Every salamander in each bait box was systematically identified and enumerated. Individual salamanders of uncertain species were purchased and mailed alive to qualified biologists for accurate identification.

Two species, *Desmognathus monticola* and *D. quadramaculatus*, accounted for more than 95% of all salamanders inventoried, though a total of seven species was encountered (Table 1). Bait dealers and fishermen recognize *D. monticola* and *D. quadramaculatus* as different species, referring to them as "light bellies" and "black bellies," respectively. Many fishermen prefer *D. monticola* over *D. quadramaculatus*, reporting them to be more active on the hook and to live longer.

Of the three other species of dusky salamanders encountered, *D. santeetlah* is of greatest interest. Presently, this species is known to occur only in North Carolina and Tennessee. Its discovery at a Georgia bait shop suggests that either the species ranges further south than currently known, or more likely, spring lizard collectors travel greater distances to sell their catch than would be expected. If indeed the *D. santeetlah* specimen came from within its known range, it was quite possibly collected illegally as the vast majority of its range falls within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and adjacent National Forest lands.

Only two species of non-desmognathine salamanders, *Pseudotriton ruber* and *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*, were found. These two species are marketed as "red dogs," and apparently are highly sought after by fishermen. Though not found during this survey, larval *Ambystoma tigrinum* are occasionally available at Georgia bait shops, where they are marketed as "mud puppies" or "waterdogs" rather than spring lizards (J. Ozier, pers. comm.). Non-desmognathine salamanders found in Tennessee bait shops included *G. porphyriticus*, *Notophthalmus viridescens*, *Plethodon serratus*, *Pseudotriton montanus*, and *P. ruber* (P. Wyatt, pers. comm.).

TABLE 1. Number of salamanders, by species, encountered at nine bait shops in northern Georgia, 29 May 1997 and 9 April 1998.

Species	Total no. of individuals	Percentage
<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>	25	2%
<i>D. monticola</i>	686	67%
<i>D. cf. ochrophaeus</i>	1	<1%
<i>D. quadramaculatus</i>	310	30%
<i>D. santeetlah</i>	1	<1%
<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	1	<1%
<i>Pseudotriton ruber</i>	2	<1%

"Spring Lizards"

The sale of spring lizards is very seasonal, with most dealers offering them only during early spring and, occasionally, late fall. Spring lizards are mainly used to catch various species of bass, primarily from large reservoirs and other impoundments. Once late spring arrives and water temperatures begin to warm in these kentic bodies, spring lizards reportedly do not live long enough on the hook to be of much fishing value. During winter, collectors are not successful at finding enough spring lizards to continue pursuit and sale of them.

Most bait dealers sell spring lizards for US \$4–\$6/dozen after purchasing them for around US \$2/dozen from individual collectors. "Red dogs" are usually sold individually and often are more expensive. One bait shop owner informed us that he typically buys four or five dozen spring lizards at a time and may purchase up to 120 dozen each year. In some areas of south and central Georgia, fishermen have north Georgia bait dealers or collectors send shipments of live spring lizards (E. Williams, pers. comm.). The presence of isolated colonies of *D. quadramaculatus* in south and central Georgia may be a result of the release of specimens distributed in this manner (Conant 1975).

There are several collecting methods employed, one of which is particularly disturbing. This method involves pouring liquid bleach into small streams, which apparently "shocks" the salamanders out from hiding. Collectors then easily grab up all the stunned animals and quickly wash them off. Obviously, this method likely creates a significantly negative impact on all the aquatic fauna and flora found in the streams where it is used. This method may impact populations of rare species, such as *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis* and several species of fish. Encouragingly, most bait dealers are very much opposed to this since spring lizards collected in this manner rarely live more than a couple of days. Several dealers informed us that one can occasionally smell the bleach on the spring lizards and that they often have "foggy" eyes. Individuals who collect spring lizards in this fashion will likely be "weaned-out" of this industry since dealers will not give them follow-up business. However, individuals who collect their own bait for a day of fishing may continue employing this method because it is fast, effective, and the animals should live, at least, through the day.

Another method practiced by some individuals involves stream diversion (M. Harris, pers. comm.). Small streams that run under unpaved roads can be diverted by placing a plywood board in front of the culvert, which backs up the water upstream from the road crossing. Once the water rises to the road level, ideally it then begins flowing down the tire-ruts of the road and away from the stream channel. Downstream from the culvert, the stream-bed is then exposed making it much easier to collect salamanders from under rocks. Others simply collect spring lizards by rolling rocks and logs in or adjacent to small streams and seeps, without the aid of stream diversion. Though none of the dealers we spoke with mentioned other collecting techniques, Camp and Lovell (1989) reported the use of a "fishing pole" equipped with an earthworm-baited hook for effectively capturing *D. quadramaculatus*. All methods reported involve collecting in or immediately adjacent to small streams, which may account for the encounter of only one *D. cf. ochrophaeus*. This species is noted for being more terrestrial and often living considerably further from water than most other *Desmognathus* spp. (Bishop 1943).

There are almost certainly additional species of salamanders that turn up from time to time in Georgia bait shops and additional collecting techniques are surely practiced. However, this study should provide the framework for applying more scientifically-based knowledge to laws and regulations involving bait salamanders in Georgia.

Acknowledgments.—Floyd Scott and Stephen Tilley confirmed the identity of several individual salamanders that puzzled us. We especially want to thank the owners and personnel at Crestview Grocery, Shady Rest Bait Shop, Field Stone Marina, Lakewood Bait and Tackle, Grant's Sporting Goods, Wahoo Trading Post, Hammonds Bait Shop, Wee Willy's No. 4, Wren's Bait and Tackle, and Freddy's Quick Service for their assistance with this inventory. Law enforcement officers with the GDNR provided information on bait shops that sold "spring lizards." The manuscript was improved through editorial comments provided by Mike Harris and E. J. Williams.

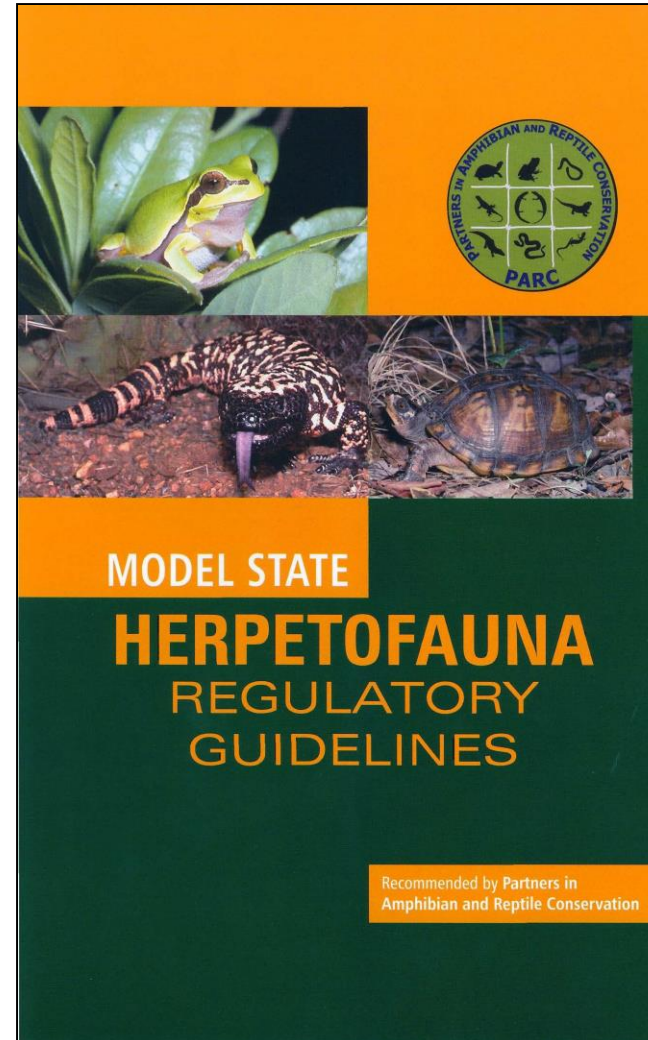
LITERATURE CITED

- BRADY, S. C. 1943. Handbook of Salamanders. Comstock Publishing, Ithaca, New York. 555 pp.
CAMP, C. D., AND D. G. LOVELL. 1989. Fishing for "spring lizards": A technique for collecting blackbelly salamanders. Herpetol. Rev. 20:47.
CONANT, R. 1975. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern/Central North America. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts. 429 pp.
LEVELL, J. P. 1997. A Field Guide to Reptiles and the Law. Serpent's Tale Natural History Book Distributors, Lanesboro, Minnesota. 270 pp.

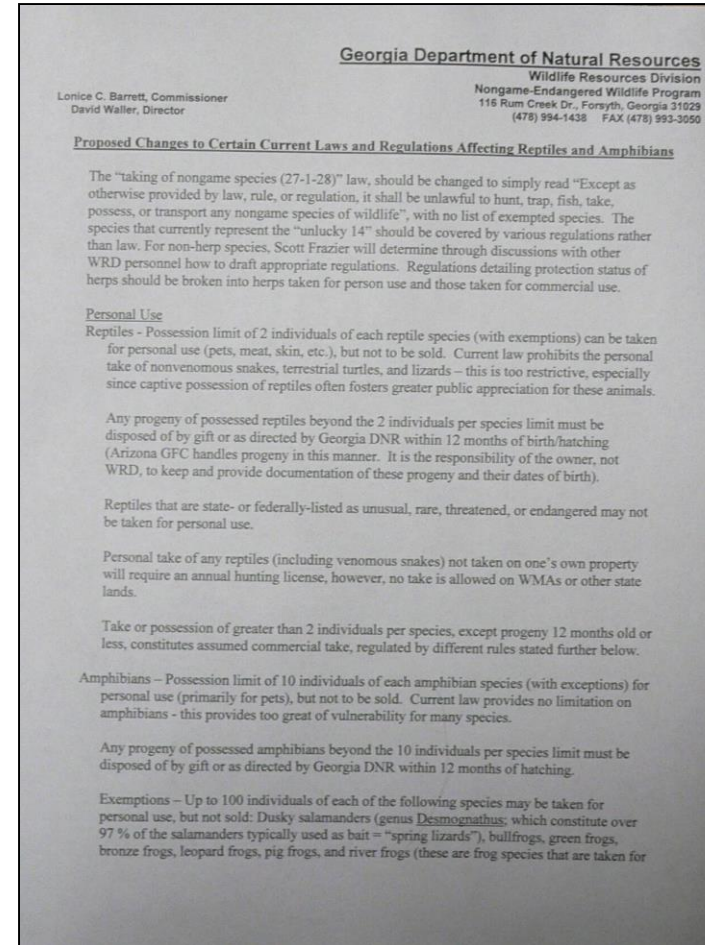
Founded
in 1999



**Produced
in 2002**



2002 – Stakeholders’ group developed proposed law changes





2003

**H.B. 345 introduced in General Assembly
(legalize wildlife hunting over bait,
particularly deer)**



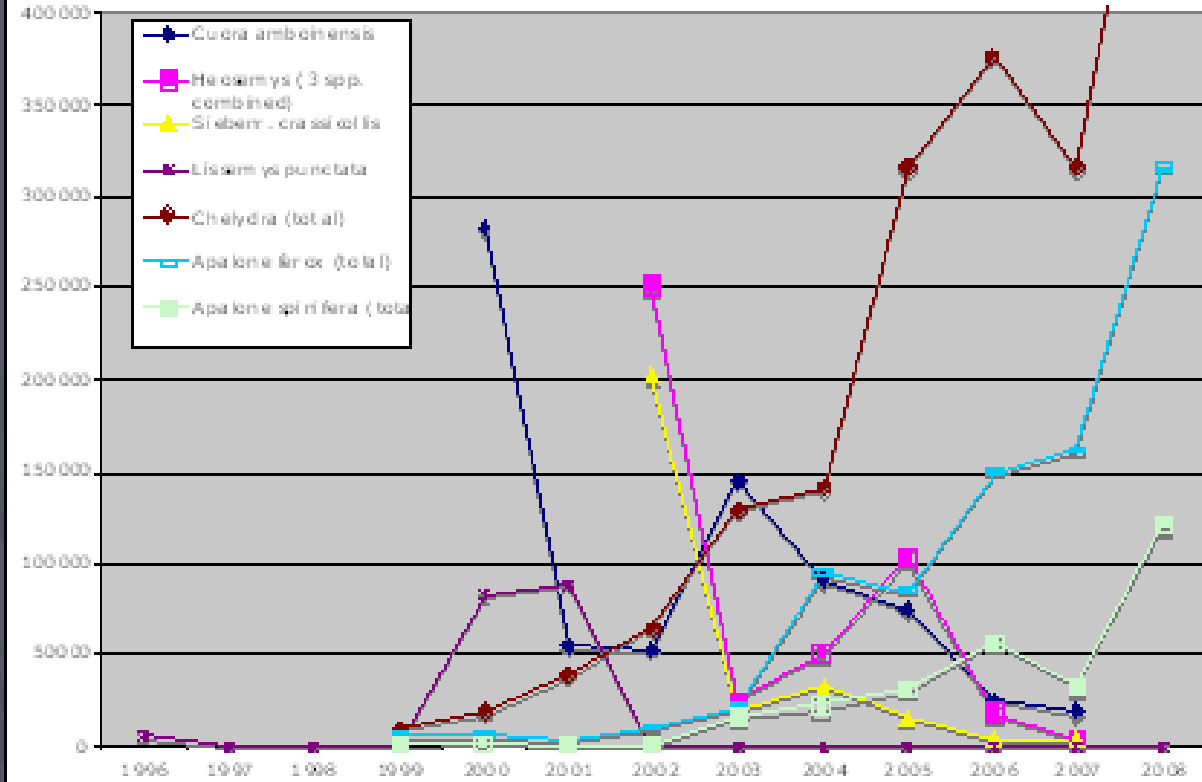
Rider:

An additional provision annexed to a bill under the consideration of a legislature, having little connection with the subject matter of the bill.

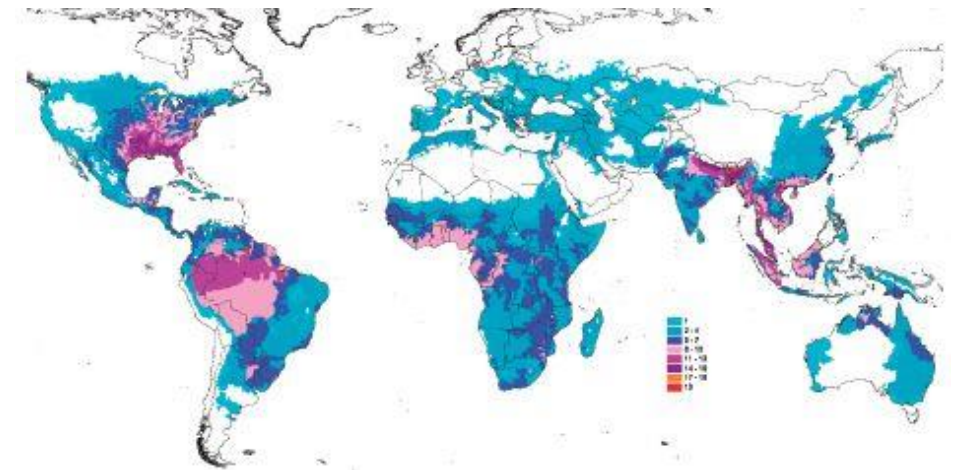
Georgia's Constitution states that the subject of a rider must be "germane" to the bill.

Asian Turtle Crisis



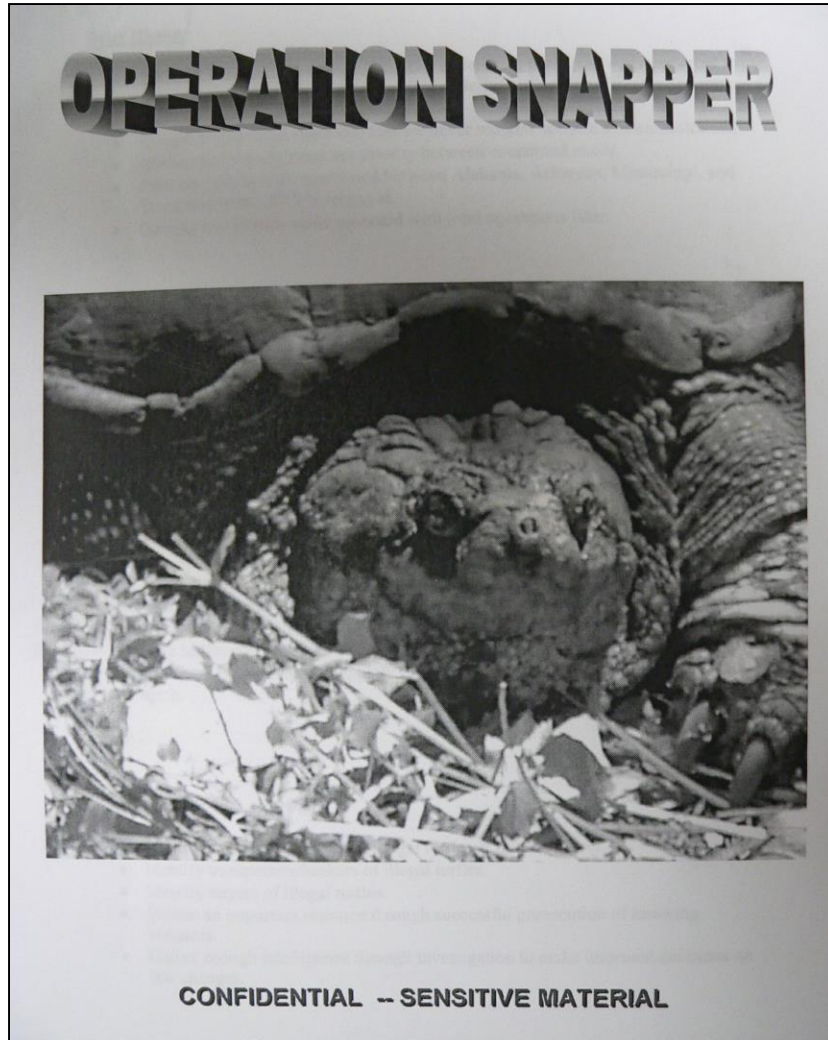


IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group; CITES CoP15





July 2005



**Seizure of 534 turtles, mostly
map turtles and alligator
snappers**

March 2008: DNR received petition from CBD

BEFORE THE COMMISSION OF THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA



Barbour's map turtle (*Graptemys barbouri*) – USGS photo

EMERGENCY RULEMAKING REQUEST TO REPEAL GEORGIA'S TURTLE COLLECTION LAW



BASED ON THE DEPLETION OF GEORGIA'S WILD TURTLE POPULATIONS
AND AN IMMINENT PUBLIC HEALTH RISK THROUGH THE CONSUMPTION
OF CONTAMINATED TURTLES DERIVING FROM GEORGIA

MARCH 27, 2008



§ 27-3-19.1. Regulation of the exporting, farming, and selling of fresh-water turtles

(a) It shall be unlawful to export, farm, or sell any fresh-water turtle or part thereof except in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the board.

(b) As the board deems appropriate for purposes of this Code section, it may promulgate such rules and regulations as are reasonable and necessary under sound wildlife management practices.

History

Code 1981, § 27-3-19.1, enacted by Ga. L. 2010, p. 952, § 5/SB 474.

OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED

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Laws vs. Regulations

**Laws – Enacted by bill passage in legislature,
followed by Governor’s signature.**

**Regulations – Adopted by majority vote of Board of
Natural Resources.**

***The Georgia Board of Natural Resources cannot promulgate
rules or regulations in conflict with established laws***



**RULES
OF
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**CHAPTER 391-4-16
FRESH-WATER TURTLE REGULATIONS
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

391-4-16-.01	Purpose.
391-4-16-.02	Definitions.
391-4-16-.03	Unlawful Activities.
391-4-16-.04	Permits.
391-4-16-.05	Limits.
391-4-16-.06	Acquisition of Turtles.
391-4-16-.07	Specifications for Turtle Farms.
391-4-16-.08	Records and Reports.
391-4-16-.09	Inspection and Inventory of Turtle Farms

391-4-16-.01 Purpose.
The purpose of these regulations is to establish procedures for the export, farming and sale of native fresh-water turtles pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 27-3-19.1. The following regulations prescribe the rules and regulations necessary to administer the export, farming, and sale of native fresh-water turtles under sound wildlife management practices.

391-4-16-.05 Limits.

(1) Any person possessing a commercial turtle permit may not take the following species in numbers greater than the respective limit on an annual (i.e., April 1-March 31) basis:

Species	Common Name	Limit
Apalone ferox	Florida Softshell Turtle	100
Apalone spinifera	Spiny Softshell Turtle	100
Chelydra serpentina	Common Snapping Turtle	300
Chrysemys picta	Painted Turtle	300
Kinosternon baurii	Striped Mud Turtle	300
Kinosternon subrubrum	Eastern Mud Turtle	300
Pseudemys concinna	River Cooter	100
Sternotherus minor	Loggerhead Musk Turtle	300
Sternotherus odoratus	Common Musk Turtle	300
Trachemys scripta	Pond Slider	1,000

Please forward a copy of your report to John.Jensen@dnr.ga.gov or mail to 116 Rum Creek Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029

Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Division
Special Permit Unit
2065 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.
Social Circle, Georgia 30025
(770) 761-3044

**COMMERCIAL TURTLE
PERMIT ANNUAL REPORT
For the Report Year Ending
March 31, 2016**

Permittee and/or Farm Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED] Customer Number: [REDACTED]

1. Total number of turtles of each species possessed, including number of each sex, if determinable, as of March 31 last report year.

Same as species captured below.

2. Total number of turtles of each species captured, including number of each sex, if determinable, this report year.

Loggerhead Musk Turtles: 300

3. Counties trapped this year.

Pike County.

4. For turtle farming only: Total mortality this year by species, including cause of death, if known.

N/A

Please forward a copy of your report to John.Jensen@dnr.ga.gov or mail to 116 Rum Creek Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029

Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Division
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2065 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.
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(770) 761-3044

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PERMIT ANNUAL REPORT
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March 31, 2016**

Permittee and/or Farm Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: (Bus.) [REDACTED] (Home) [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED] Customer Number: [REDACTED]

1. Total number of turtles of each species possessed, including number of each sex, if determinable, as of March 31 last report year.

Same as species captured below.

2. Total number of turtles of each species captured, including number of each sex, if determinable, this report year.

Spiny Softshell Turtles: 2

Painted Turtles: 2

River Cooter: 88

Loggerhead Musk Turtles: 300

Common Musk Turtles: 36

3. Counties trapped this year.

Pike County.

4. For turtle farming only: Total mortality this year by species, including cause of death, if known.

N/A

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1. Total number of turtles of each species possessed, including number of each sex, if determinable, as of March 31 last report year.
300 Loggerhead Musks
Unsure of Sex

2. Total number of turtles of each species captured, including number of each sex, if determinable, this report year.
300 Loggerhead Musks





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<i>Kinosternon subrubrum</i>	Eastern Mud Turtle	300
<i>Pseudemys concinna</i>	River Cooter	100
<i>Sternotherus minor</i>	Loggerhead Musk Turtle	300
<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	Common Musk Turtle	300
<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	Pond Slider	1,000

391-4-16-.03 Unlawful Activities.

- 1) It is unlawful for any person to export native fresh-water turtles without a valid commercial turtle farming permit issued by the department.
- 2) It is unlawful for any person to possess more than ten (10) native fresh-water turtles without a valid commercial turtle farming permit issued by the department.



27-1-28. Taking of nongame species.

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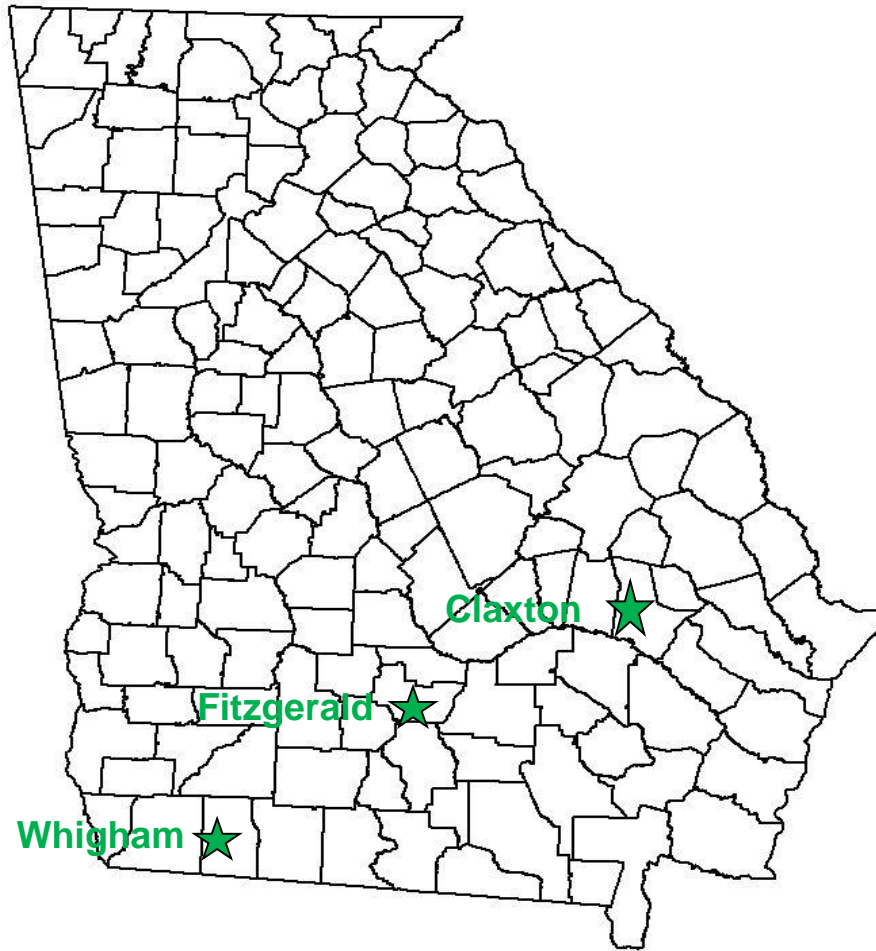




Efforts to Reform Rattlesnake Roundups in Georgia



Modern-day Rattlesnake Roundups in GA



Counting, weighing, sorting



Skin and curio vendors





Parades



Beauty Pageants





What does NOT happen at Georgia rattlesnake roundups...

Public killing and skinning of snakes



Idiotic, cruel, and dangerous contests



Letter writing campaigns...



...to roundup organizers



Why not just make roundups illegal?



**TITLE 27. GAME AND FISH
CHAPTER 2. LICENSES, PERMITS, AND STAMPS GENERALLY
ARTICLE 1. HUNTING, TRAPPING, OR FISHING**

§ 27-1-28. Taking of nongame species

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- (13) Fresh-water mussels; and**
- (14) Nutria.**

Why so politically difficult?



- Roundup proceeds go to charities and other good causes
- Related tourism generates lots of \$\$ for the community (*Claxton Rattlesnake Roundup* voted one of the “Top 20 Events in the SE” by the SE Tourism Society)
- Community and many others believe they are performing an important, even necessary safety measure
- Most people don’t like snakes, much less rattlesnakes
- Legal action would increase animosity against GA DNR and may threaten ongoing or future conservation measures on private lands in the region



Problems with Rattlesnake Roundups

(from American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists position paper)

- Promote overexploitation of natural populations of wildlife
- Promote unnecessary killing and inhumane treatment of individual animals
- Promote degradation of habitat
- Promote outdated attitudes toward important elements of America's natural history

ALSO, southeastern roundups especially contribute to declines of eastern diamondbacks and other imperiled wildlife species



DNR Proposal



In exchange for:

- 1. eliminating the capture of wild snakes*
- 2. eliminating the sale of native wildlife meat, parts, venom, and other products*

DNR will annually provide:

- 1. at least 40 captive adult rattlesnakes for display*
- 2. educational wildlife programs*
- 3. educational wildlife exhibits*
- 4. recruitment of other wildlife educators and conservation organizations to set up displays, etc.*
- 5. promotion of the event through press releases, electronic newsletters, Dept. of Industry, Tourism, and Trade publications, etc.*

Warm and fuzzy, not! Gregory Langston (left) and Zachary Griner pet an indigo snake in Fitzgerald, where rattlesnake roundups will be discontinued after calls from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Death rattle sounds for roundup

By Ralph Ellis
rellis@ajc.com

Fitzgerald — Randy Jones placed his rattlesnake box underneath the funeral tent set up in the middle of town.

The Fitzgerald Jaycees and their helpers measured 14 eastern diamondback rattlers that Jones, 30, and a friend had captured over three days earlier this year.

At \$5 per foot, the reptiles brought \$265 from buyers who milk them for venom to make antivenin, then slaughter them for their meat and skins.

"It's not really worth it," Jones said of snake collecting. "Not if you figure in the cost of gasoline."

The Fitzgerald Jaycees agree. On Saturday, their annual Fitzgerald Rattlesnake Roundup passed into extinction.



Ricky Haggard of the Jaycees said the club decided to end the roundup after receiving calls from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

"They have encouraged us

greatly to stop doing this," Haggard said, adding that the Jaycees have also received citizen complaint calls after each festival. The festival is also denounced as an example of animal cruelty on at least

one rattlesnake-friendly Internet Web site.

DNR said the roundup and similar events in Claxton and Whigham and across the border in Opp, Ala., may be depleting the eastern diamondback population.

Next year, the rattlesnake roundup in Fitzgerald will be replaced with a festival to honor the Burmese wild chicken, Fitzgerald's unofficial mascot. The chickens were introduced to the rural area around Fitzgerald several decades ago. They were supposed to be a game bird, but they proved too urbane for that.

"They didn't like the country habitat," said Gerald Thompson, Fitzgerald mayor for 32 years. "They came to the city."

Now the Burmese wild chickens thrive in the little

► Please see **SNAKES**, D6



6


BEFORE THE
SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AND

THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

PETITION TO LIST THE EASTERN POPULATION OF THE
GOPHER TORTOISE AS A THREATENED SPECIES

SAVE OUR BIG SCRUB, INC. AND WILD SOUTH,
Petitioners.



USFWS 12- Month Finding on petition (2011)

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 12-Month Finding on a Petition To List the Gopher Tortoise as Threatened in the Eastern Portion of Its Range

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of 12-month petition finding.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce a 12-month finding on a petition to list the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) in the eastern portion of its range (east of the Mobile and Tombigbee Rivers) as threatened and to designate critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. In this finding, we also evaluate whether the status of the gopher tortoise in the western portion of its range (west of the Mobile and Tombigbee Rivers) is accurate. After review of all available scientific and commercial information, we find that the current listing of the gopher tortoise as a threatened species in the western portion of its range is accurate and that listing the gopher tortoise in the eastern portion of its range is warranted. Currently, however, listing the gopher tortoise in the eastern portion of its range is precluded by higher priority actions to amend the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. We will add the gopher tortoise in the eastern portion of its range to our candidate species list, and we will develop a proposed rule to list the gopher tortoise in the eastern portion of its range as our priorities

document was made on July 27, 2011.

ADDRESSES: This finding is available on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket Number [FWS-R4-ES-2009-0029]. Supporting documentation we used in preparing this finding is available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Florida Field Office, 7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200, Jacksonville, FL 32256. Please submit any new information, materials, comments, or questions concerning this finding to the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David L. Hankla, Field Supervisor, North Florida Field Office (see ADDRESSES); by telephone at 904-731-3308 or by facsimile at 904-731-3048 *mailto:*. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), please call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that, for any petition to revise the Federal Lists of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife and Plants that contains substantial scientific or commercial information that listing a species may be warranted, we make a finding within 12 months of the date of receipt of the petition. In this finding, we determine that the petitioned action is: (a) Not warranted

25376). On January 18, 2006, we received a petition dated January 13, 2006, from Save Our Big Scrub, Inc. and Wild South requesting that the population of the gopher tortoise in the eastern portion of its range (east of the Mobile and Tombigbee Rivers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) be listed as a threatened species under the Act and critical habitat be designated. The petition included supporting information regarding the species' taxonomy, ecology, historical and current distribution, present status, and a summary of actual and potential threats. We acknowledged receipt of the petition in a letter to Wild-Law, legal counsel for Save Our Big Scrub, Inc. and Wild South, dated February 24, 2006. In that letter we also stated that, due to a substantial number of listing-related actions in fiscal year 2006, there were insufficient funds to begin processing the petition at that time. We indicated that we would reevaluate our ability to respond to outstanding petitions as additional funding became available.

Funding became available to begin processing the petition in early February, 2007. On September 9, 2009, we published a 90-day finding (74 FR 46401) that the petition presented substantial scientific and commercial information indicating that listing may be warranted and that we would initiate a status review. We indicated we would accept information to assist us in the review until November 9, 2009. Several commenters requested additional time to provide their comments, and on January 12, 2010, we published clarification that we would accept

Final Decision - 2023 or soon after



BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
PETITION TO LIST THE
EASTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE (*CROTALUS ADAMANTEUS*)
AS THREATENED UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT



CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
COASTAL PLAINS INSTITUTE
PROTECTING ALL LIVING SPECIES
ONE MORE GENERATION

August 22, 2011



§ 27-1-30. Disturbing or destroying wildlife habitats

GA - Official Code of Georgia Annotated O.C.G.A. § 27-1-30

TITLE 27. GAME AND FISH > CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation, it shall be unlawful to disturb, mutilate, or destroy the dens, holes, or homes of any wildlife; to blind wildlife with lights; or to use explosives, chemicals, electrical or mechanical devices, or smokers of any kind in order to drive such wildlife out of such habitats, provided that this Code section shall not apply to poisonous snakes.





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Wildlife Exhibition Permits



TITLE 27. GAME AND FISH
CHAPTER 2. LICENSES, PERMITS, AND STAMPS GENERALLY
ARTICLE 1. HUNTING, TRAPPING, OR FISHING

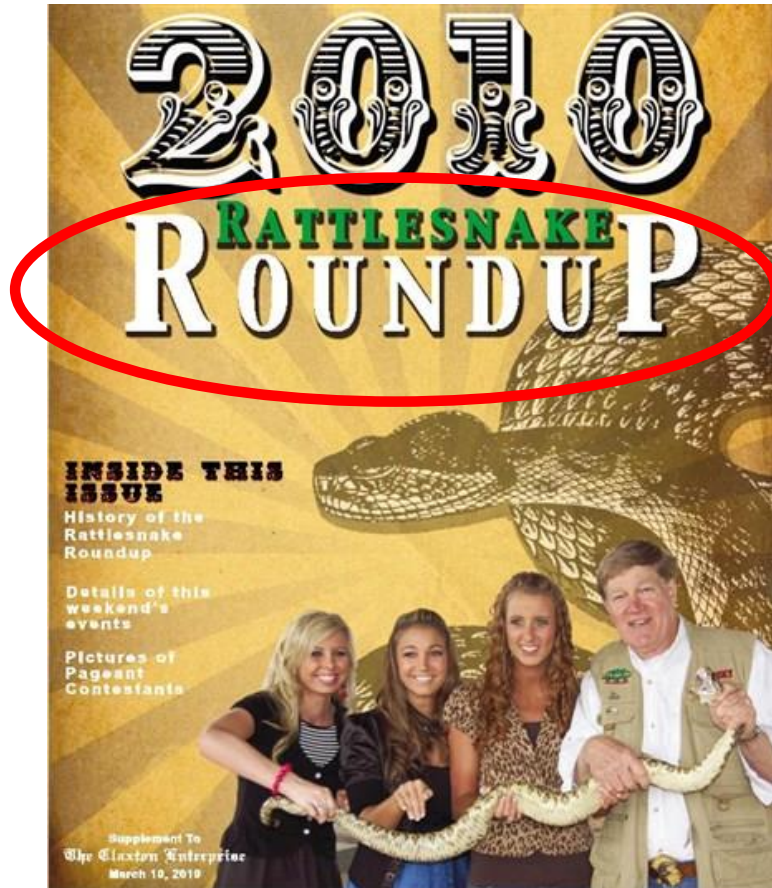
§ 27-2-13. Wildlife exhibition permits

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, hold, or possess any wildlife in captivity for the purpose of display or exhibition to the public without first procuring a valid wildlife exhibition permit as provided in Code Section 27-2-23. **No such permit shall be issued by the department except where the exhibition or display is solely for educational purposes.** The department may impose conditions on such permit requiring adequate sanitation facilities, housing, and feed for the animals and insuring the safety of the public in accordance with regulations promulgated by the board. Exhibitions of wildlife by educational institutions; state, city, county, or municipal zoos; or transient circuses shall not be required to procure a wildlife exhibition permit, provided that such exhibitors must comply with all regulations of the board relating to sanitation, housing, feed, and public safety. Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require a permit to exhibit or display fish.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person holding any wildlife in captivity pursuant to a wildlife exhibition permit to release the wildlife from captivity or to house or maintain the wildlife in such a manner as to pose a reasonable possibility that the wildlife may be released accidentally or escape from captivity.

Claxton Roundup Conversion

1967 - 2011



2012, 2013, 2014, - ?

Claxton Roundup Conversion



Claxton Roundup Conversion



Modern-day Rattlesnake Roundups in GA

