

Preface

Turtles are fascinating creatures, liked by almost everyone. In spite of their popularity, many species in North America are now dwindling, and several are in danger of becoming extinct if further conservation measures are not taken. This book continues the tradition of Pope (1939), Carr (1952), Ernst and Barbour (1972), and Ernst et al. (1994) in presenting current (mostly through 2006) life histories of all turtle species living in the United States and Canada. In this way it serves as a source for what is known of their behavioral, ecological, physiological, and reproductive requirements but also, through their absence, what data are needed. If successful conservation and management plans are to be formulated to save our turtles, data such as that contained herein are essential.

The scientific names used in the text were taken from Bonin et al. (2006) and Fritz and Havaš (2007); the common names were adopted from Crother (2000, 2003).

Many people have contributed, in various ways, to the publication of this book. Advice, data, and encouragement were provided over the years by Hal Avery, Roger Barbour, Karen Bjorndal, Bill Boarman, Vince Burke, Bruce Bury, David Carroll, Dennis Casper, Justin Congdon, Fred Cox, Charles Crumly, Lydia Dengel, Mike Dreslik, Charles Drost, Cody Edwards, Jim Fowler, Uwe Fritz, Whit Gibbons, Jim Godwin, Steve Gotte, Judy Greene, James Harding, Traci Hartsell, Marci Hecker, Dennis Herman, John Iverson, Fred Janzen, Peter Lindeman, Ashley Lovich, Justin Lovich, Robert Lovich, Ken Marion, Roy McDiarmid, Walter Meshaka, Tony Mills, Robert Reynolds, Carol Robertson, Andy Ross, Raymond Saumore, Michael Seidel, Jay Shaffer, Hobart Smith, Jim Stuart, John Tucker, Tony Tucker, Trooper Walsh, Bob Zappalorti, and George Zug. Richard Greene, Polly Lasker, Martha Rosen, Courtney Shaw, and David Steere of the Library of the Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, helped us obtain obscure literature. The family of the late Roger W. Barbour allowed us to use his photographs; other photographs, illustrations, or specimens were provided by Richard Bartlett, Jim Godwin, Chris Hagen, James Harding, Brian Horne, John Iverson, Chris Lechowicz, Bill Love, Frank Paladino, Donna Shaver, and Tony Tucker. Our former students and technicians Thomas Akre, Jonathan Bayless, Cindy Beck, Jenny Bell, Curtis Bjurlin, Timothy Boucher, Kay Briggs, Timothy Brophy, Steve Busack, Amy Caicedo, Jeff Clayton, Terry Creque, Hillary Cressey, Sandra D'Alessandro, Ramona Daniels, Carla Dove, Cyril Fernandes, Lee French, Douglas Halliday, Helen Hamilton, Kerry Hansknecht, Traci Hartsell, Marci Hecker, Dan James, Bobby Jett, Arndt Laemmerzahl, Thomas Leuteritz, John McBreen, Billy McDonald, Kathie Meyer, Peter Miller, A. J. Monatesti, Jerri Nichols, John Orr, Carol Pollio,

Rodney Richardson, Carol Robertson, Janet Ruth, Josh Schachter, Steve Sekscienski, Shiela Tuttle, Jim Warner, John Wilder, James Wilgenbusch, Gordon Wilson, and Thomas Wilson helped in the field or the laboratory. Evelyn M. Ernst edited much of the manuscript, including the bibliography, and prepared the anatomical illustrations and distribution maps.