

Red-Eared Slider



Red-eared sliders are semi-aquatic, fresh water turtles found in many streams, creeks, lakes and wetlands throughout the United States.

Geographically, the species originated from around the Mississippi River and south to the Gulf of Mexico. They prefer warmer climates, particularly the southeastern United States, typically in areas east of and below Colorado to Virginia and continuing south to Florida.

Habitat

They prefer habitats with calm, warm water, as well as logs or rocks for basking, suitable nesting areas, and plenty of vegetation to hide in and consume. These can be ponds, lakes, marshes, creeks and streams.

The red-eared slider turtle is native in much of the mid- to south-central United States.

However, it is an invasive species in California, Oregon, Washington and many other states.

Diet

Red-eared sliders are omnivorous, eating sub-aquatic vegetation, fruits, aquatic invertebrates, fishes, and amphibians like frogs and newts. Adult turtles eat sub-aquatic vegetation primarily, while around 40-50% of a juvenile turtles' diet is comprised of animal protein. Young turtles prey mostly on small fish and amphibian eggs and tadpoles.