

This observation occurred during a period of extended drought in Illinois, USA, and we postulate that this female utilized the lodge as a cool, moist habitat in response to low water levels and high ambient temperatures. Additionally, the lodge could have acted as a refugium from predators. During this period of drought, regional wildlife managers observed increased levels of predation across both juvenile and adult classes of *E. blandingii* (R. B. King, G. Glowacki, pers. comm.). During periods of low water levels, terrestrial predators are able to access wetlands more readily and prey on turtles usually separated by water barriers (JSC IV, pers. obs.; G. Glowacki, pers. comm.). This use of a beaver lodge by *E. blandingii* represents novel mammal burrow use by an enigmatic emydid turtle. All animals were handled in accordance with Illinois Department of Natural Resources regulations and permitting (collection permit HSCP 19-14 and 5426).

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**EMYDOIDEA BLANDINGII (Blanding's Turtle). MATING.** Courtship and mating in *Emydoidea blandingii* have been observed in every month from March to November, but most often occur from March to July (Ernst and Lovich 2009. Turtles of the United States and Canada. Second Edition. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 827 pp.). The following observation of late season mating was made along the Upper Wapsipicon River, Bremer County, Iowa, USA.

On 25 October 2008 at 1300 h, a pair of large adult *E. blandingii* was observed in ca. 38 cm of water in a flooded ditch with no aquatic vegetation and a mud and cobble substrate. When first observed the male was mounted on the female with his carapace protruding from the water. Over a period of several minutes, the pair moved slowly along the substrate and the male was observed gulping and chinning as described by Baker and Gillingham (1983. *Herpetologica* 39:166–173). On two occasions, both individuals were observed raising their heads above the surface to breathe (i.e., snorkeling; Baker and Gillingham 1983, *op. cit.*). After ca. 15 min, the male dismounted, and the two turtles moved in opposite directions down the ditch.

This late season mating activity may have been the result of unseasonably warm weather that allowed the turtles and other reptiles to be active longer into the fall than is typical in this part of Iowa. Air temperature had regularly been above 15.6°C in the weeks preceding the observation. Weather conditions at the time of the observation were sunny with an air temperature of 13.9°C and a water temperature of 10.6°C. To my knowledge, this is the latest reported mating of *E. blandingii* in Iowa.

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**ERETMOCHELYS IMBRICATA (Hawksbill Sea Turtle). HATCHLING ORIENTATION WITH ARTIFICIAL LIGHT.** Photopollution is a serious problem faced by sea turtles in the coastal zone (Niloy 2019. *Nature Digest* 5:108–111). The presence of artificial lighting directed towards the seashore can alter the ability of sea turtle hatchlings to find the ocean, as they instinctively orient towards the brightest point on the horizon (Mrosovsky et al. 1985. *Z. Tierpsychol.* 67:237–256; Robertson et al. 2016. *Wildl. Res.* 43:27–37).

Disoriented hatchlings may move away from the sea and can become trapped in vegetation, dehydrated, vulnerable to predation, or killed by vehicles on roads (Simões et al. 2017. *Zoologia* 34:1–6). Coastal northeastern Brazil contains extensive nesting areas for sea turtles, with Paraíba being one of the main nesting regions for the species *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Mascarenhas et al. 2003. *Mar. Turtle Newsl.* 101:18–20). However, coastal urbanization offers numerous threats to nesting females and hatchlings (Sayegh et al. 2020. *Revista Ibero Americana de Ciências Ambientais.* 11:89–101), including photopollution (Vandersteen et al. 2020. *Remote Sens.* 12:1–19). Here, we report on an observation of disorientation in *E. imbricata* hatchlings that emerged from the nest and moved towards artificial lighting on the beach.

On 10 May 2020 at 2000 h, we discovered a nest of emerging hatchling *E. imbricata* during a survey on Cabo Branco Beach, in the Municipality of João Pessoa (7.12749°S, 34.82228°W; WGS 84). This area is highly urbanized, with artificial lighting directed towards the sea. We collected 54 living individuals. In examining the nest, we counted those that hatched (N = 124), infertile eggs (N = 13), those that died after hatching (N = 1), and those that died inside the egg (N = 1). Of the live animals collected, 15 were randomly selected and placed on the beach to examine any disorientation behavior caused by artificial lighting. Four hatchlings headed toward the sea, while eleven individuals headed away from the sea, towards the artificial light. These were then collected and transported to a safe location (Bessa Beach: 7.08951°S, 34.83332°W; WGS 84), where there is little artificial lighting, enabling the correct orientation of the hatchlings. To verify if weak lighting could disorient the newborns, we turned on a cell phone's white light flash feature. This caused an immediate "shutdown" behavior (ceasing of movement) in some individuals who were still on the sand, as they raised their heads in apparent reorientation towards the light. Upon observing the change in the turtles' actions, we turned off the light and the hatchlings continued their journey to sea. To mitigate this problem, we note the importance of increased local monitoring, determining levels of disorientation, and instituting new public policies for improved placement of artificial lighting on Cabo Branco Beach during the turtle's reproductive season. This is the first case report of the disorientation of Hawksbill Sea Turtle hatchlings due to the presence of artificial lighting in João Pessoa.

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**GOPHERUS FLAVOMARGINATUS (Bolson Tortoise). MORTALITY.** *Gopherus flavomarginatus* is an endemic tortoise from the Bolsón de Mapimí in Northern México and is the largest species of North American tortoise. During the last three decades this species has received a lot of attention due to the dramatic decrease of its population caused largely by human predation,