

# river cooter

## *Pseudemys concinna*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Reptilia  
Order: Testudines  
Family: Emydidae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

endangered, native

### FEATURES

The river cooter is about nine to thirteen inches long. It has a "C" marking on certain scutes (plates) of the dark carapace (upper shell) along with yellow circular markings throughout the upper shell. The carapace is usually flattened. The male has long claws on the front feet. The head is striped.

### BEHAVIORS

The river cooter lives in sloughs and oxbows along major rivers, particularly those with plentiful aquatic plants. This turtle is aquatic but will leave the water to bask on logs. It feeds in the early morning and late afternoon. During May or June the female deposits about 20 eggs in a nest she digs in soil. Hatching occurs in August or September. This turtle eats vegetation, crustaceans, mollusks (snails, slug and others) and insects.



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juvenile

### ILLINOIS RANGE



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### **Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests; rivers and streams

### **Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none