

# Red-eared Slider

## Red-eared Slider & Yellowbelly Slider - P1.5

(*Trachemys scripta elegans* & *T. s. scripta*) Introduced Species

**Identification:** 5" - 11 3/8". The Red-eared and Yellowbelly Sliders have oval shells with a weakly keeled, olive-brown carapace and a hingeless, yellow plastron. The carapace is often intricately patterned with stripes, bars, blotches, and reticulations. The lower jaw is rounded, unlike the flattened lower jaw in other species. The upper jaw has a notch. The Yellowbelly Slider can be identified by a large yellow blotch behind the eye and a wide vertical yellow bar on the scutes on the side of the carapace. The Red-eared Slider can be identified by a wide red stripe behind the eye (not always present) and a thin yellow bar on the side scutes, surrounded by many thin black bars. Melanism occurs with maturity, which can make identification difficult.

**Where to find them:** This is not a species native to New Jersey. Sliders can be found anywhere in the state. Sliders usually prefer still water with a muddy bottom and abundant vegetation. They can be seen basking on logs above water or on masses of floating plants, and are occasionally seen out on the banks.

**When to find them:** Active April through September.

**Range:** Entire state.

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### Key Features

- Wide, reddish stripe behind eye.
- Carapace: oval shaped and weakly keeled; olive to brown color.
- Plastron: hingeless and yellow.



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Excerpt from: Schwartz, V. & D. Golden, "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey". New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife 2002.

Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>