

NATURAL HISTORY

# Tiny Survivors

In April, a Nature Conservancy preserve in North Carolina became the first property to be included in the new Mountain Bogs National Wildlife Refuge.

## NAME AND STATUS

Bog turtle  
*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*.  
Listed as a threatened species in 1997.

## HABITAT

Prefers open-canopied wetlands. Northern population found in scattered pockets from Massachusetts to Maryland; southern population from southwestern Virginia to Georgia.

## THREATS

Loss of habitat and poaching for illegal wildlife trade.



## ONLINE

See how turtle tracking is done in Shady Valley, Tennessee, at [nature.org/turtlestudy](http://nature.org/turtlestudy).



4 INCHES

## Life Amid the Mud

### Spring

Bog turtles emerge from winter hibernation in the mud to bask in the sun, mate and eat. They are omnivorous but favor snails, slugs and worms.

### Summer

Female bog turtles prefer wet meadows with clumps of vegetation above the water line, where they lay their eggs. The eggs hatch six to eight weeks later.

### Fall and Winter

Bog turtles survive the cold months by burying themselves in the mud. Turtles in northern climes may spend as much as half their lives entombed.