

Dedicated to the Memory of Commissioner Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Jr.

PLAY

Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth
SUMMER 2002

Introduction to Reptiles

When asked to name a reptile, would you say a "dinosaur"? How about a crocodile? Would you say "fence lizard"? How about a stinkpot turtle? Even though dinosaurs lived long ago and crocodiles do not live in Pennsylvania, there are reptiles in

Pennsylvania. In fact, there are 39 reptile species in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania reptiles inhabit woodlands, wetlands and our waters. This special issue of PLAY is about reptiles.

What makes an animal a reptile?

All reptiles, including those long extinct, share characteristics. After reading this issue of PLAY, you can list those traits. Six reptile species are endangered and two are threatened. They are protected by law. Did you know, though, that the Commission protects all reptiles in some way? For example, there is an open fishing season for snapping turtles and a limit on how many you can keep.

Northern
fence
lizard—
*Sceloporus
undulatus
hyacinthinus*

photo-Art Michaels

When you are done with this issue of PLAY, pass it on. Remember that subscriptions to the PLAY newsletter are free to other kids ages 8 to 12. Teachers and youth group leaders can also get PLAY newsletters. Contact the Fish & Boat Commission for more details on this program.

Don't forget to check out the Commission's web site, www.fish.state.pa.us. The site is loaded with information on reptiles, amphibians, fish, fishing, boating and water safety.

