

SPOTLIGHT

RED-EARED SLIDER



Red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) sunning in the Schuylkill River in Center City just downstream from the Spring Garden Street Bridge.

This turtle first appeared in Philadelphia in the twentieth century after its young became popular as pets, which were purchased in pet shops. It is now the turtle most commonly seen in the Schuylkill River in Center City. It may be displacing native species, such as the eastern redbelly turtle (*Pseudemys rubriventris*), classified as threatened in Pennsylvania. Red-eared sliders are native to the Mississippi valley.¹