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## WESTERN PAINTED TURTLE IN GRANT COUNTY, OREGON

Jeffrey H. Black<sup>1</sup> and Andrew H. Black<sup>2</sup>

ABSTRACT.—The western painted turtle, *Chrysemys picta belli* (Gray), is recorded for the first time from Grant County, Oregon. This specimen represents the southwesternmost occurrence of the species in Oregon.

On 27 August 1984 a western painted turtle, *Chrysemys picta belli* (Gray), was collected in a small pond near Canyon City, Grant County, Oregon. This specimen represents the first record of this turtle in Grant County and the southwesternmost occurrence of this species in the state (Nussbaum, Brodie, and Storm 1983).

The turtle was observed swimming quietly on the surface of a one-acre pond filled with aquatic vegetation. The pond was on a sagebrush- and juniper-covered hillside adjacent to Canyon Creek on the west side of Canyon City. The pond is 1 km west of Canyon Creek and 6 km from the John Day River and mouth of Canyon Creek. Later the turtle was captured, sexed, measured, photographed, and released back into the pond.

The turtle was an adult female with a carapace length of 172.3 mm and width of 132.3 mm. Its plastron length was 164.5 mm and width 89.2 mm. She was heavy and appeared healthy. Nussbaum, Brodie, and Storm (1983) report females range from 95 to 210 mm in carapace length in the Willamette Valley of western Oregon.

Black and Storm (1970) reported a northwestern pond turtle, *Clemmys marmorata marmorata* (Baird and Girard), from Grant County and noted the sightings of other turtles in ponds bordering the John Day River in Grant County. Northwestern pond turtles and western painted turtles have probably moved from the Columbia River southwestward in the John Day River to Grant County. There are records of western painted turtles in Umatilla, Morrow, and Union counties, all north of Grant County but south of the Columbia River in eastern Oregon. The possibility also exists that the turtle was captured elsewhere or purchased as a pet and then released into the pond or area where it was captured.

### LITERATURE CITED

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