

CHELODINA LONGICOLLIS (Eastern Long-necked Turtle).
DRINKING BEHAVIOR. Most species of freshwater turtles use terrestrial habitats at several points in their annual and life cycles, including nesting, movements between water bodies, and, in some species, for over-wintering and aestivation. Some of these behaviors require an extended time out of water (i.e., weeks, months, or even years) and thus present a challenge for the maintenance of water balance. During a radio-telemetric study of *C. longicollis* in

Booderee National Park, Jervis Bay Territory, Australia, I observed one obvious and two apparent instances of terrestrial drinking behavior during a rainfall event (44.2 mm) on 20 February 2005 in the austral summer. All three turtles (2 male, 1 female; carapace lengths 170.0–215.5) had been inactive and completely buried under leaf litter in the forest near a wetland that had been dry for 93 days, but between 1649–1655 h during heavy rainfall at 20°C, all three were observed on the surface within one meter of their refuge sites. Two turtles were in a sprawled posture with legs and neck fully extended, while the third was actively drinking water that had pooled in a shallow natural depression in the litter. The turtles were buried in their previous refuge sites the following day. During drought, terrestrial tortoises are well known for their ability to drink pooled water during rainstorms (Medica et al. 1980. *Herpetologica* 36:301–304), but this is apparently the first report for drinking in a freshwater turtle while in natural terrestrial aestivation. Such behavior may in part replace respiratory and evaporative water losses incurred throughout aestivation and allow for more extended periods of survival out of water.

Submitted by **JOHN H. ROE**, Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra, Bruce, Australian Capitol Territory 2601, Australia; e-mail: roe@aerg.canberra.edu.au.