

postreproductive females lacked enlarged follicles, possibly because they were preserved before a new ovarian cycle had become advanced.

In April the prereproductive potential, as estimated by counts of follicles greater than 5 mm in diameter in nine mature females, was 3.9 eggs/female. As *T. coahuila* can produce more than one clutch of eggs per season, forming new follicles in each of three possible reproductive periods, the above may be an inaccurate estimate for a single year. The difference of 1.2 eggs between the prereproductive potential (3.9) and the average first clutch size (2.7) further indicates early follicular enlargement for second ovulations. Of the July-August sample, 53% would be expected to produce two clutches. In the estimated 35% of females producing three clutches per season, the expected mean annual reproductive potential, determined by adding the mean number of eggs in each clutch, is 6.8.

As is true for clutch size, reproductive potential of *Sternotherus odoratus* varies geographically (Tinkle 1961). After comparing *Terrapene n. nelsoni* from western México with *T. o. ornata* and *T. c. carolina* on the basis of average single (or first) clutch sizes produced in these populations, Milstead and Tinkle (1967) proposed that reproductive potentials may be lower in southern than in northern *Terrapene*. From the sample examined, they concluded that *T. n. nelsoni* produces one clutch annually, but state: "it must be admitted that the southern turtles may produce more than one clutch per year." The mean reproductive potential (6.8 eggs/female per season) realized by an estimated one-third of *T. coahuila* females is below the potential of 8.2 (mean first and second clutch sizes added) realized by a similar portion of the *T. o. ornata* population in Kansas (Legler 1960b), but is higher than the mean single clutch size (=mean reproductive potential) of 4.2 eggs/female per season in northern *T. c. carolina* (Allard 1935).

EGG-LAYING SEASON.—The earliest date of laying indicated by preserved specimens of *T. coahuila* was approximately 3 July (corpora lutea), the latest date approximately 26 August (oviducal eggs). Legler (1960b) and Gibbons (1968c) noted that *T. o. ornata* and *Chrysemys picta*, respectively, normally retained eggs in the oviducts for 2 to 3 weeks before laying. Although length of egg retention in *T. coahuila* is unknown, if 3 weeks is added to the approximate earliest date of ovulation (early April), oviposition could begin in late April or the first week in May. The egg laying period continues to the first week in September, if one week is added to the latest date when a female was found with eggs. One female had two preovulatory follicles on 24 August, extending oviposition to the latter portion of September if ovulation were to have occurred in early September.