

Incubation periods of turtle eggs are subject to wide variation depending largely upon environmental temperatures. Allard (1949) found that eggs of *T. carolina* hatched in 52 days at summer laboratory temperatures, but incubation periods varied between 69 and 135 days in nests; 87 to 89 days was the "average" incubation period under natural conditions. Incubation periods of *T. c. carolina* varied from 69 to 103 days at Washington, D.C. (Ewing 1933). Conant (1951) reported an incubation period of a single clutch of *T. c. carolina* in Ohio to be 105 days. Ewing (1933) and Allard (1948) reported hatching of *T. carolina* in September and early October. A typical incubation period for *T. o. ornata* eggs in eastern Kansas under natural conditions was about 65 days; eggs laid in mid-June usually hatch in mid-August, but may be delayed until October in years when summer temperatures are cooler than normal (Legler 1960b). Legler (1960b) noted wide fluctuations in laboratory incubation periods of *T. o. ornata* eggs. At an average daily temperature of 32.8°C, the mean incubation period was 59 days; at 27.8°C, 70 days; and at 23.9°C, 125 days. Moll and Legler (1971) determined the mean incubation period of *Pseudemys scripta* eggs in Panama at seasonal environmental temperatures (21° to 32°C) to be 78 days.

Climatological data indicate that mean monthly air temperatures in the 7-month period May through November range from a low of 19.0°C in November to 29.4°C in August at Cuatro Ciénegas (Contreras Arias 1942). Mean temperatures during this period in 1965 ranged from 18.5° in November to 29.5° in July (Modesto de la Garza P., pers. comm.). If the incubation periods given by Legler (1960b), Moll and Legler (1971), and others, are assumed to approximate those of *T. coahuila* in the period from May through November when environmental temperatures would generally correspond to temperatures given for an incubation period of approximately 70 days, projected dates of hatching of the eggs contained in the three gravid female *T. coahuila* would be approximately mid-September, early October, and late October or early November.

Hatchlings appearing in October or early November from eggs laid in August should not experience thermal difficulty in emergence. Average maximum air temperatures in November (26.3°C) and December (20.7°C) (Contreras Arias 1942) would provide suitable conditions for activity; if, as seems probable, nests are placed in moist, soft soils of sedge tussocks, conditions may differ widely from those indicated by air temperatures alone. The relatively warm water of the marshes would mitigate environmental extremes.

A 1- to 3-month old hatchling was discovered in the study area on