

Based on the observations reported here, *K. hirtipes* can occupy temporary wetlands in the Mexican highlands, and these wetlands can play a role in *K. hirtipes* reproduction, acting as favorable habitat for early life stages. It is possible that *K. hirtipes* could act as a landscape connector between temporary and permanent wetlands, perhaps serving as a dispersion vector for certain aquatic species. This information, coupled with future observations and field experiments on *K. hirtipes* behavior and habitats, can inform conservation practices to preserve this species and its wetland ecosystems.

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**LEPIDOCHELYS KEMPII (Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle). NESTING.** On 12 July 2018, members of the general public observed an adult sea turtle exiting the Atlantic Ocean along West Beach on the Rockaway Peninsula within Gateway National Recreation Area (GATE), Queens County, New York, USA, crawling towards the dunes, and excavating a nest chamber. Egg deposition was not observed, and there was not a biologist on scene to verify the species of the nesting turtle. However, the species was later identified by examination of photographs taken by the citizens that observed the turtle. GATE National Park Service (NPS) staff protected the estimated nest location with a wire cage enclosure, string fencing, and signage, and trail cameras were installed at the site. Biologists from Padre Island National Seashore, Gulf Island National Seashore, Long Island United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Field Office, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation (RFMRP) provided technical expertise and/or equipment for monitoring and protection of the nest and hatchlings. On 10 September 2018, the 60<sup>th</sup> day of *in situ* incubation, GATE NPS staff documented that the nest had been inundated by higher than normal spring tides and northeast winds. Due to the threat of continued high tides produced by Hurricane Florence, the nest was excavated by GATE NPS staff to recover any viable eggs or embryos, and to release any hatchlings. Of 116 deposited eggs, 110 viable eggs were recovered and incubated in polystyrene foam boxes filled with clean sand. From 25–28 September 2018, 96 hatchlings that emerged from these eggs were released at the West Beach nest site. Species was confirmed again by examination of hatchlings. Unhatched eggs were collected for ongoing genetic and temperature-dependent sex determination studies. This is the first record of *Lepidochelys kempii* nesting and depositing eggs in New York, USA. *Lepidochelys kempii* nest primarily along the western Gulf of Mexico coast (Shaver et al. 2017. PLoS ONE 3:e0174248). Prior to this record, the northernmost *L. kempii* nest was documented in Virginia, USA (Wright 2015. Currents Fall:66–70). GATE NPS staff conducted all activities under a letter of permission from USFWS, and with authority invested by the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 17.21 Subpart C-Endangered Wildlife-17.21 [c][3][i] of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531et seq.).

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**PSEUDEMYNS GORZUGI (Rio Grande Cooter). RESOLUTION OF PROLAPSE.** During a multi-year capture-mark-recapture study of *Pseudemys gorzugi* on the Devil's River, Val Verde County, Texas, USA, a male with a penile prolapse was observed on 3 August 2015 and subsequently on 6 May 2016. Over this nine-month period, the individual endured a prolapsed condition, with a marginal decrease (2.5%) in body weight (Sirsi et al. 2017. Herpetol. Rev. 48:180). The individual was recaptured 26 months later on 25 July 2018. The extent of swelling and discoloration of prolapsed tissue appeared to have decreased while the amount of necrotic tissue had stabilized over this duration (Fig. 1). The decrease in weight (760 g) observed from the first capture of the individual (790 g) was 3.8%, suggesting that the prolapse had little negative impact on excretory function and overall health of the turtle. This is an expected observation as the chelonian phallus is not involved in urination (Nisbet et al. 2011. Kafkas Univ. Vet. Fak. Derg. 17:151–153). Furthermore, while measuring and weighing the turtle, a spontaneous retraction of the prolapsed tissue was observed (Fig. 2). Spontaneous resolution of minor cloacal prolapses has been observed in amphibians (Philott and Young 2009. Dis. Aquat. Org. 86:77–80); this report might be the first to describe an instance of spontaneous recovery



FIG. 1. A male *Pseudemys gorzugi* recaptured in the Devil's River, Val Verde County, Texas on 25 July 2018 demonstrating a penile prolapse. Prolapsed tissue shows some necrotic tissue as indicated by the black patches.