27 July 2011. Andrew Hoffman, Sierra Shepard. Florida Museum of Natural History (UF-Herpetology 171910 photo voucher). New county record (Minton 2001. Amphibians and Reptiles of Indiana. Indiana Academy of Science, Indianapolis. xvi + 404 pp.). A single juvenile was photographed swimming through the shallows. Numerous adults were observed along the river throughout the day.

PITNAM CO.: Big Walnut Creek [39.785007°N, 86.778656°W; WGS 84]. 27 May 2012. Andrew Hoffman, Sierra Shepard. UF-Herpetology 171898 photo voucher. New county record (Minton 2001, op. cit.). A large adult female buried in a very small, but deep patch of sand, below a small ruffle, in the shallows of a stream. All records verified by Kenneth Krysko.

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CHELONIA MYDAS (Green Sea Turtle). USA: LOUISIANA: CAMERON PARISH: Salt marsh 100 m S of Louisiana Hwy 82 and 1 km E of Texas-Louisiana border (29.76746°N, 93.88262°W; WGS84). 25 April 2013, 1300 h. Will Selman and Ryan King. Florida Museum of Natural History Herpetology Department (UF 170048, photo voucher). First verified record from southwestern Louisiana (Dundee and Rossman 1989. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Louisiana. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge and London. 300 pp.; HerpNet collections database, www.herpnet.org, accessed 22 October 2013). A putative skeletal record of C. mydas from Cameron Parish exists in the LSU-Shreveport collection (LSUS 8456) from a dead individual that washed onto the beach from offshore. However, based upon the skeletal material available, the specimen cannot be verified to species (J. Boundy, pers. comm.). Juvenile (27.3 cm midline carapace length [MCL]; 2700 g) captured in a salt marsh.

St. BERNARD PARISH: Salt marsh on the fringe of Eloi Bay approximately 23.3 km ESE of Hopedale, Louisiana (29.78886°N, 89.41930°W; WGS84). 15 May 2013. Dane Cassidy and Amy Magro. UF Herpetology 171444 (photo voucher). New parish record (Dundee and Rossman, op. cit.; HerpNet collections database, www.herpnet.org, accessed 28 October 2013). This record fills the distributional gap that existed between an Orleans Parish specimen (near New Orleans, USNM 55569) and a Plaquemines Parish specimen (Breton Island, unpublished literature record cited by Dundee and Rossman, op. cit.). Juvenile (approx. 30 cm MCL) captured in salt marsh.

TERREBONNE PARISH: Salt marsh 2.3 km NE of Cocodrie, Louisiana at the north end of Bay Cocodrie (29.26237°N, 90.64619°W; WGS84). 16 May 2013. Ben Stultz and Todd Credeur. UF Herpetology 171449 (photo voucher). New parish record (Dundee and Rossman, op. cit.; HerpNet collections database, www.herpnet.org, accessed 28 October 2013). This record is 70 km W of a Jefferson Parish specimen collected in 1962 on Grand Terre Island (LSU Herpetology 54213). This animal was a juvenile (approx. 22 cm MCL).

All individuals were captured alive in fyke nets, which were placed in tidal bayous while conducting Malaclemys terrapin (Diamondback Terrapin) surveys. Trap locations ranged between 0.8-1.4 m deep and 7.6-14 m wide, while water salinities ranged between 5.6-16 ppt and water temperature ranged between 22.3-24.6°C. Following species documentation and measurements, all individuals were released at the capture site. All photo vouchers were verified by Jeff Boundy.

It seems beyond a coincidence that all three individuals were juveniles of similar size, captured in similar salt/brackish marsh habitat, and all captured within a span of 21 days. Dundee and Rossman (op. cit.) considered C. mydas a “visitor” to Louisiana. However, Fuller et al. (1987. Sea Turtles in Louisiana Coastal Waters. Report for the Coastal Fisheries Institute and Louisiana Sea Grant College Program. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. 39 pp. with appendix) noted that C. mydas is the second most observed species by fishermen/marine-oriented people in Louisiana, with most reports being juveniles in the southeastern portion of the state. Because we cannot determine the validity of the self reported records in Fuller et al. (op. cit.), we consider our records from Terrebonne and St. Bernard parishes the first verifiable C. mydas records for these parishes. Based on the three individuals reported herein, juvenile C. mydas appear to be seasonally utilizing near shore habitats during the late spring and early summer in Louisiana. The sizes we report are also consistent with the estimation that C. mydas juveniles leave the “oceanic” stage around 25-35 cm MCL (Reich et al. 2007. Biol. Letters 3:712-714). Because juveniles are more carnivorous than adults (Ernst and Lovich 2009. Turtles of the United States and Canada, 2nd ed. Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 827 pp.), it is possible that they are consuming marine invertebrates in salt and brackish marsh habitats.

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