



Ornate Box Turtle Watch Observation Form

Please fill out one form for each observation

The ornate box turtle is a land turtle native to southeastern Arizona's desert grasslands. It can be distinguished from the desert tortoise, which also has a domed shell, by the yellow radiating lines it has on its carapace (top part of shell), and the hinged plastron (underside of shell) which allows it to close its shell completely.

OBSERVER INFORMATION:

Name _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email address _____

OBSERVATION INFORMATION:

Date _____ Time _____
GPS location: Easting / Latitude _____ Datum (check one): NAD 27 NAD 83/WGS84
Northing / Longitude _____
Was it found on (check one): paved road unpaved road on trail none of these
Detailed location (i.e., specific nature preserve, highway and mile marker, etc.) _____

Nearest cross streets and town _____

Habitat where turtle was found (check one):

disturbed grassland native grassland desert scrub agricultural land oak woodland
other (describe) _____

Residential area (check one)? Y / N **Ranching present (check one)?** Y / N

Notes _____

Temperature: _____ °F / °C **Sky (check one):** No or few clouds / Mostly cloudy / Currently raining
Rain in the previous 24 hrs (check one)? Y / N

TURTLE INFORMATION (check one for each question):

Status: Dead / Alive **Behavior:** walking / not moving / eating **Activity:** In open / hiding

Sex:* M / F / unknown ** Male box turtles have red eyes, orange scales on the forelimbs, and a long tail; females have brownish-yellow eyes, yellow scales on the forelimbs, and a short tail.
Determining sex does not allow you to handle the turtle.*

Photos taken? Y / N (please send any photos in with your form, or e-mail them to aowens@azgfd.gov)

Due to perceived population declines, the ornate box turtle is a protected species in Arizona, meaning that it is **illegal to collect, handle, or relocate the species**. Participating in the Ornate Box Turtle Watch does not allow you to handle box turtles.

By participating in the Ornate Box Turtle Watch, you will be directly helping the Arizona Game and Fish Department to determine the current distribution of box turtles which will guide our conservation efforts. For more information on box turtles and Arizona's other turtle species, please visit www.azgfd.gov/turtle. Thank you for your participation.

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| <p>Please return form and any photos to: Nongame Branch Turtles Project Arizona Game and Fish Department 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086</p> | <p>If you have questions, contact: Cristina Jones, Turtles Project Coordinator cjones@azgfd.gov / 623-236-7767 Audrey Owens, Turtles Project Biologist aowens@azgfd.gov / 623-236-7504</p> |
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