



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 _____ Date _____ Time _____

Street address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Phone _____ Email address _____

Status: Dead / Alive GPS Easting/Latitude _____ Datum _____
location: Northing/Longitude _____

Location (i.e., specific nature preserve, highway and mile marker, etc.) _____

Nearest cross streets and town _____

Temperature _____ °F / °C Sky: No or few clouds/Mostly cloudy/Raining Rain in the previous 24 hrs? Y / N

Sex:* M / F / unknown

Activity: In open / hiding

Behavior: walking / not moving / eating

Photos taken? Y / N

**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.*

Habitat where turtle was found (circle one):

paved road native grassland desert scrub other (describe) _____
unpaved road disturbed grassland agricultural land _____

Land use in surrounding area (circle one):

agricultural/ranching residential recreational area
nature park/preserve not in use other (describe) _____

Notes _____

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.

<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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