

POND SLIDER

(*Trachemys scripta*)

NONNATIVE



Description: Medium to large-sized turtle (up to 14 inches long) with webbed back feet. Young sliders are green and olive-colored with a variable pattern of yellow stripes on the carapace; adults become drab in color. The red-eared slider subspecies has a red or orange "ear" patch on both sides of the head behind the eye. The yellow-bellied slider subspecies has a bright yellow plastron and conspicuous yellow markings behind the eye. Males have much longer claws on the front feet than do females.

Habitat: Aquatic; inhabits shallow, slow-moving streams, ponds, or lakes with soft sand or mud bottoms, or banks with a lot of vegetation. Native to the Mississippi River drainages in the eastern United States. Popular in the pet trade, it has become one of the most widely distributed turtles in the world. Well-established in aquatic habitats in urban areas of Tucson, Phoenix, Flagstaff, and Yuma, as well as several river systems including the Colorado River.

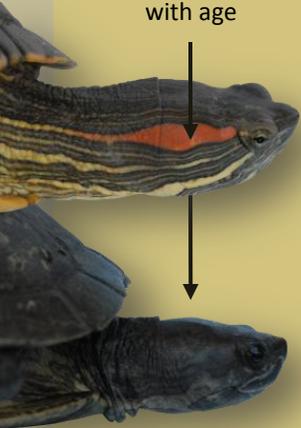
Behavior: Omnivorous; eats aquatic invertebrates and some plant matter. Basks on logs or rocks; often stacked one upon another, but will quickly dive under the surface of the water if startled.



If you find one: If you find a pond slider away from a source of water, where its welfare is questionable or threatened, please contact the [nearest Game and Fish office](#) or the Phoenix Herpetological Society for information and recommendations.

*A hunting license is required to remove reptiles from the wild in Arizona, with specific rules concerning sliders. See current regulations at www.azgfd.gov.

Bright spot can darken with age



The head coloration of a Yellow-bellied Slider is very different than that of a Red-eared Slider

