



BOX TURTLE SIGHTING REPORT FORM

Please complete one form for each box turtle sighted.

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Species: Eastern Box Turtle Ornate Box Turtle Status: Dead Alive

Size – maximum plastron (lower shell) length: _____ in. mm.

Sex (see Information for characteristics): Male Female

Location: County: _____

Site (particular WMA, county road, etc.): _____

Distance & direction from nearest town: _____

Lat.-Long.: _____

Temperature: _____ F° C°

Rainfall amount during previous 24 hours: _____ in. mm.

Habitat where turtle was found (select one):

- native grassland
- improved grassland
- mixed grass/shrubs
- predominantly shrubland
- mainly deciduous woodland/forest
- mainly evergreen woodland/forest
- desert scrub
- agricultural land
- paved road
- unpaved road
- other: _____

Dominant habitat in surrounding area (select up to three):

- native grassland
- improved grassland
- mixed grass/shrubs
- predominantly shrubland
- mainly deciduous woodland/forest
- mainly evergreen woodland/forest
- desert scrub
- agricultural land
- other: _____

Dominant land use in surrounding area (select one):

- residential
- ranching
- agriculture
- timber production
- park land/preserve
- not in current use
- other: _____

Other notes: _____

Information on Box Turtles in Texas

Box Turtles (genus *Terrapene*) can be distinguished from other native Texas turtles by having a single hinge at the front of the lower shell (plastron), allowing them to fold it up and closing the front of the shell entirely; thus the common name of “box turtle.” Box turtles also have a hooked upper jaw (“beak”) that is lacking in other Texas turtles. The only other land turtle in Texas is the Texas Tortoise; it lacks any hinges on the plastron, has a head entirely covered with scales rather than having skin, and has a very rough upper shell (carapace). Male box turtles have red eyes (females yellow or golden), a longer tail with a thick base (females shorter and thinner), and a somewhat concave plastron (females have a flat one).

Questions?

Contact Andy Price at (512) 912-7011, andy.price@tpwd.state.tx.us or Lee Ann Linam at (512) 847-9480, lalinam@wimberley-tx.com

Please return form to:

Andy Price, TPWD,
3000 S IH 35 STE 100,
Austin, TX 78704-6537
or fax to (512) 912-7058

For additional forms, visit:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/boxturtles/

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department maintains the information collected through this form. With few exceptions, you are entitled to be informed about the information we collect. Under Sections 552.021 and 552.023 of the Texas Government Code, you are also entitled to receive and review the information. Under Section 559.004, you are also entitled to have this information corrected. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744; 1-800-792-1112; www.tpwd.state.tx.us