



Wood Turtle: *Glyptemys insculpta* State Threatened

Field Observation Form

June 14, 2021

Note: The Wood Turtle is a protected species in Virginia. It is unlawful to harm, collect, possess and/or disturb these animals without a permit. Wood Turtles found in uplands within a project/work area during construction should be moved out of the project area to locations within the nearest stream (adjacent to project area, within same watershed) no further than a 1/4 mile up or downstream from the project site. Any relocations should be reported to J.D. Kleopfer and the Wood Turtle Observation Form with accompanying photos completed and emailed to John (J.D.) Kleopfer at John.Kleopfer@dwr.virginia.gov within 72 hours. If you must fax or send the form, use the information below.

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
Attn: John Kleopfer
3801 J.T. Memorial Highway
Charles City, Virginia 23030
FAX 804-829-6788

Distribution: Wood Turtles are found primarily in the northeastern United States and parts of southeastern Canada, reaching the southern limit of its range in northern Virginia. In Virginia, it has been documented in Warren, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Frederick, Loudoun, Fairfax, Clark, and Page counties.

Species Description: Wood Turtles are a semi-aquatic turtle usually found in or near streams, but not in ponds, reservoirs, or lakes. The shell length of an adult Wood Turtle can reach 9 inches. The plastron (bottom-half of the shell) is NOT hinged and the carapace (top-half of the shell) is flattened. The legs and tail are usually reddish to orange in color. Females are sometimes less colorful.

Wood Turtles may be confused with Eastern Box Turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*). Eastern Box Turtles are mainly terrestrial and only seldom are found in water. Eastern Box Turtles have a high domed shell with a hinged plastron which allows for it to completely enclose itself. The shell length of an adult Eastern Box Turtle is rarely over 5 inches. See the following page for images and detailed descriptions of Wood Turtles and Eastern Box Turtles.

Your name: _____

TE Collection Permit#, if applicable: _____

Your address: _____

Your phone number (optional): _____

Location of observation (GPS coordinates, nearest stream): _____

Comments: _____

WOOD TURTLE



Note the sculptured scales of the top of shell (carapace).

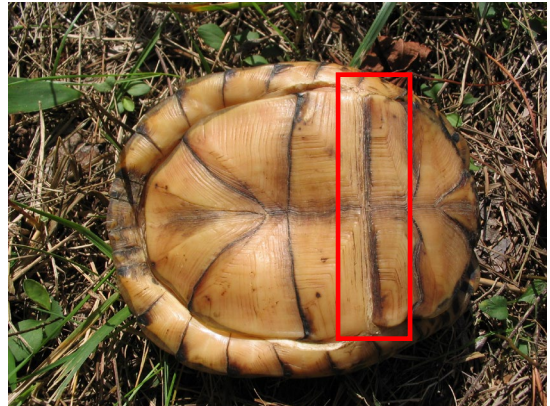


Bottom view (plastron) of a male Wood Turtle. The concave plastron is characteristic of a male. Note the distinct black markings and brightly colored legs and tail.

EASTERN BOX TURTLE



Note the high domed shell and lack of sculptured scales. Males usually have an orange or yellowish face and are more brightly colored than females.



Note the **hinged plastron** and no markings. The concave plastron is also characteristic of male box turtles.



The plastron of Eastern Box Turtles will often turn black.



Unlike Wood Turtles, Eastern Box Turtles can completely enclose themselves within their shell.