

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: 8-10 inches

Color: Black and olive shells; red and orange underbelly

General: Hard and smooth shells; yellow stripes on the head and limbs

Usually Found: Shallow water in ponds, marshes, ditches, edges of lakes, backwaters of streams, river pools



Did You Know?

- Painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) spend much of their time basking in the sun on hollow logs in shallow bodies of water.
- Their colorful shells are sometimes hidden by a red or brown deposit.
- Adult males are smaller than females and can be identified by the very long nails on their forefeet.
- Females dig their nests in soft soil and lay 4-10 eggs. Nests are found in open areas and can be as many several hundred meters from water.

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The first appearance of a painted turtle on land
- The first appearance in water



Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this animal is impacted by environmental changes.

How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:
<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>
or sent to phenology@lgnc.org

Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,
phenology@lgnc.org

What is Phenology? According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of “recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds.”

(www.usanpn.org)