

Northeast Blanding's Turtle Project

Individual Turtle Form Instructions

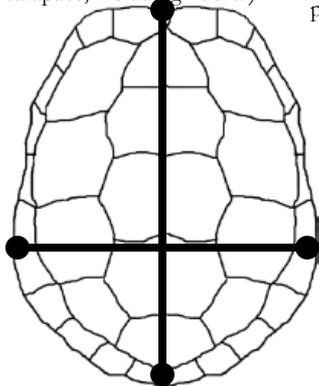
Turtle ID: The number that the turtle was notched (note notch code on form).

Was the turtle in a trap or was it caught by hand?

Sex: Is the turtle male, female or less than or equal to 14 years old (juvenile). Note if unknown.

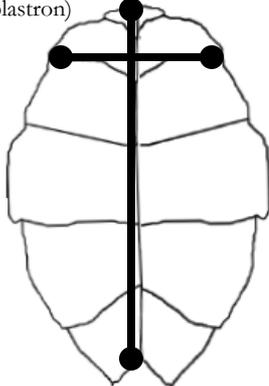
General health: Does the turtle appear sick? (e.g., note lethargy, sores, fresh injuries or infection).

SCL_{min}: straight carapace length (the shortest distance down the centerline of the carapace, including nuchal)



CW: Carapace width at the widest point.

SPL_{min}: straight plastron length (the shortest distance down the centerline of the plastron)



PW (optional): Plastron width at humeral/pectoral seam.

Note any distinctive marks. Also note notch code if confusing or non-standard.

Blanding's Turtle Individual Form (4/12/13)

Observer(s):		Site Name:		Site Code:	
Turtle ID #	Date:	Time:			
Capture method: <input type="checkbox"/> Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Trap		Ref. point:	Trap number:		
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> J (≤ 14 yr)	Coordinates (dd.dddd):				
<input type="checkbox"/> measured <input type="checkbox"/> notched <input type="checkbox"/> bled <input type="checkbox"/> photos <input type="checkbox"/> PIT	PIT number:				
SCLmin (mm):	Photo file names:				
SPLmin (mm):	Visible annuli:				
CW (optional):	Wear class: <input type="checkbox"/> not worn <input type="checkbox"/> $\leq 50\%$ worn <input type="checkbox"/> $> 50\%$ worn <input type="checkbox"/> $\geq 90\%$ worn				
PW (optional):	General health: <input type="checkbox"/> URT distress <input type="checkbox"/> lethargy <input type="checkbox"/> sores <input type="checkbox"/> other:				
Mass (g):	Injuries: <input type="checkbox"/> tail <input type="checkbox"/> eye <input type="checkbox"/> limb (specify in comments)				
Scute morphology: <input type="checkbox"/> normal <input type="checkbox"/> irregular (specify or mark below)					
Indicate notches and record marks or injuries:					
<input type="checkbox"/> initial capture (not marked before) <input type="checkbox"/> marked in 2013 or before <input type="checkbox"/> previously captured in 2013 <input type="checkbox"/> gravid <input type="checkbox"/> not gravid					
Comment:					

Site: Use 6 letter site code: "State - County - 2 letter SiteID". For example: "MA-MI-GM" (=Mass., Middlesex, Great Meadows)

If in a trap, what is the trap ID? (e.g., Ref1-Trap1)

If not in a trap, what were the turtle's latitude and longitude (in decimal degrees). Use NAD1983 (or note datum if different).

Note whether you notched, PIT-tagged, photographed, measured, or drew blood from the turtle. Complete appropriate boxes below. (e.g., notch system: Ernst, Cagle, State of NH, etc.)

Report the degree of plastral shell wear using the right abdominal as a surrogate for the rest of the plastron. Note whether the abdominal scute is "not worn (0)," "partly worn <50% (1)," "mostly worn >50% (2)," or "completely worn (3)."

How many annuli are visible on the plastron?

Does the turtle have any injuries (for example: stub tail or missing limbs)? If so, which limb, and how much is missing? For example: "missing rt. front limb at elbow".

Scute morphology: Does the turtle have normal scute morphology (i.e., 12 marginals on both sides, 5 vertebrals, 4 costals on both sides, and complete set of plastral scutes)? If not, what is unusual?

Was this the first time the turtle was ever captured? (**initial capture**, no previous notches); or was the turtle a **recapture** (i.e., it had been previously marked)? If the latter, was it already captured in 2013?

Northeast Blanding's Turtle Project

VRA Form Instructions

Reference Point Number within the site: 1, 2, 3, or 4. Each reference point should have 2 vantage points surveyed for 10 minutes during each of 3 visits.

Once in position, what time did you begin actively surveying?

Weather during survey: overcast (ovc), mostly cloudy (mc), partly cloudy (pc), clear (clear), light rain (lr), heavy rain (hr).

Wetland type (check all that apply):
vp: vernal pool
em: emergent marsh (herbaceous perennials are dominant)
ss: scrub shrub (dominated by shrubs < 3m high)
dfo wet: deciduous forested wetland (e.g., red maple swamp)
pond: open water with unconsolidated organic bottom
river: channel with discernible flow

Relative to other vantage points, was habitat quality at this site high (very likely to support EML), medium (possibly supports EML), or low (unlikely to support EML).

Vantage quality: Relative to other vantage points, was visibility at this site high (i.e., you could see a large area of wetland with ample basking sites and minimal obstruction), medium (average visibility), or low (visibility was obstructed by topography or vegetation, limited basking sites, etc.).

Approximate area of wetland you were able to survey from the vantage point.

Blanding's Turtle Visual Rapid Assessment (VRA)			
2013 Field Form (Draft 4/13/13) - Four sheets per site per visit			
Observer:	Site Name:	Site Code:	
Reference Point #	Survey: <input type="checkbox"/> 1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input type="checkbox"/> other:		
Vantage # 1	Date:	Start time:	End time:
Coordinates (decimal-decimal):			
Habitat quality: <input type="checkbox"/> H/ <input type="checkbox"/> M/ <input type="checkbox"/> L	Vantage quality: <input type="checkbox"/> H/ <input type="checkbox"/> M/ <input type="checkbox"/> L	# of basking sites: <input type="checkbox"/> H/ <input type="checkbox"/> M/ <input type="checkbox"/> L	
<input type="checkbox"/> previous reconn.	Yrs of experience at site:	Standing dead: <input type="checkbox"/> Y/ <input type="checkbox"/> N	beaver act: <input type="checkbox"/> Y/ <input type="checkbox"/> N
Weather: <input type="checkbox"/> ovc <input type="checkbox"/> mc <input type="checkbox"/> pc <input type="checkbox"/> clear <input type="checkbox"/> lr <input type="checkbox"/> hr	Air °F:	H2O °F:	
Wetland type: <input type="checkbox"/> vp <input type="checkbox"/> em <input type="checkbox"/> ss <input type="checkbox"/> dfo wet <input type="checkbox"/> pond <input type="checkbox"/> river <input type="checkbox"/> other:	approx. wetland area searched: <input type="checkbox"/> <10,000 ft ² <input type="checkbox"/> 10,000 ft ² - 1 acre <input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 1 acre		
survey type: <input type="checkbox"/> visual only <input type="checkbox"/> shoreline search <input type="checkbox"/> wading binoc power:			
# EMBL observed:	# CLGU observed:		
# CHPI observed:	# Unknown observed:		
EMBL individuals recognized (if any):			
Other SCGN observed:			
Reference Point #	Survey: <input type="checkbox"/> 1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input type="checkbox"/> other:		
Vantage # 2	Date:	Start time:	End time:
Coordinates (decimal-decimal):			
Habitat quality: <input type="checkbox"/> H/ <input type="checkbox"/> M/ <input type="checkbox"/> L	Vantage quality: <input type="checkbox"/> H/ <input type="checkbox"/> M/ <input type="checkbox"/> L	# of basking sites: <input type="checkbox"/> H/ <input type="checkbox"/> M/ <input type="checkbox"/> L	
<input type="checkbox"/> previous reconn.	Yrs of experience at site:	Standing dead: <input type="checkbox"/> Y/ <input type="checkbox"/> N	beaver act: <input type="checkbox"/> Y/ <input type="checkbox"/> N
Weather: <input type="checkbox"/> ovc <input type="checkbox"/> mc <input type="checkbox"/> pc <input type="checkbox"/> clear <input type="checkbox"/> lr <input type="checkbox"/> hr	Air °F:	H2O °F:	
Wetland type: <input type="checkbox"/> vp <input type="checkbox"/> em <input type="checkbox"/> ss <input type="checkbox"/> dfo wet <input type="checkbox"/> pond <input type="checkbox"/> river <input type="checkbox"/> other:	approx. wetland area searched: <input type="checkbox"/> <10,000 ft ² <input type="checkbox"/> 10,000 ft ² - 1 acre <input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 1 acre		
survey type: <input type="checkbox"/> visual only <input type="checkbox"/> shoreline search <input type="checkbox"/> wading binoc power:			
# EMBL observed:	# CLGU observed:		
# CHPI observed:	# Unknown observed:		
EMBL individuals recognized (if any):			
Other SCGN observed:			
Comments for this reference point:			

Site: Use 6 letter site code: "State - County - 2 letter SiteID". For example: "MA-MI-GM" (=Mass., Middlesex, Great Meadows)

Each site should be visited 3 times during the spring season. Which number visit was this?

What time did you actively finish surveying (duration should be 10 minutes / vantage point).

Latitude / Longitude of the starting point of the 10 minute survey. Use NAD83, or report other datum.

Water temperature at time of survey (record only if you have a thermometer). Temperature should be taken immediately following survey, (10cm) beneath the water surface, ~ 2m off shore

Air temperature during survey. Record only if you have a thermometer. Should be out of direct sunlight.

Relative to other vantage points, were there many (H), a moderate number (M), or few to no visible basking sites?

Is there beaver activity visible (lodge or dam)?

Record the number of each species observed. Note any unidentified turtle species, and which individual Blanding's turtles (by ID#) were observed. Also note additional SCGN observed at the site.

Note any other features about these vantage points or surveys. Is this particularly good habitat? Why or why not? Are there exceptional basking sites or nesting habitat nearby? Is there evidence of human disturbance or high predator densities? Are there land access issues? Was this survey particularly difficult for some reason (weather vegetation, etc.)?

Northeast Blanding's Turtle Project

TRA/LT Trap Placement Form Instructions

Reference Point Number within the site: 1, 2, 3, or 4. Each reference point should have 5 traps set surrounding it. This form should be completed whenever traps are set for a TRA or LT trap event. 1 form should be completed / reference point, for a total of 4 forms for a site.

LT sites will be trapped during 3 or 4 12 night trap events in 2013. Which # is this? Or is this a TRA site?

What date did you first set this trap for this trap event?

What date did you pull this trap for this trap event?

What time did you set this trap for this trap event?

What is this trap's mesh size (e.g., 1", 1.5", 2", etc.)

Water depth (m) at trap

% of circle surrounding the trap, 5m in diameter, containing emergent herbaceous vegetation.

% of circle surrounding the trap, 5m in diameter, containing submergent herbaceous vegetation.

Site: Use 6 letter site code: "State - County - 2 letter SiteID". For example: "MA-MI-GM" (=Mass., Middlesex, Great Meadows)

Latitude / Longitude of the trap. Use NAD83, or report other datum.

Wetland type in the immediate vicinity of the trap:
vp: vernal pool
em: emergent marsh (herbaceous perennials are dominant)
ss: scrub shrub (dominated by shrubs < 3m high)
dfo wet: deciduous forested wetland (e.g., red maple swamp)
pond: open water with unconsolidated organic bottom
riv: river or stream with a clear channel and discernible flow.

Distance to upland (m)

% of circle surrounding the trap, 5m diameter, with canopy (>3m high) cover.

% of circle surrounding the trap, 5m in diameter, containing shrub cover.

Dominant species in the 5m circle surrounding the trap (of any layer)

Blanding's Turtle Trap Assessment					
Trap Placement 2013 Field Form (4/13/13)			<input type="checkbox"/> TRA <input type="checkbox"/> LT		
Observer(s):		Site Name:		Site Code:	
Reference Point #:			Trap event: <input type="checkbox"/> 1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd <input type="checkbox"/> TRA		
Trap # 1 Coord. (dd.dddd, -dd.dddd):					
Date set:	Time set:	Wetland type (5m): <input type="checkbox"/> VP <input type="checkbox"/> em <input type="checkbox"/> ss <input type="checkbox"/> d fo wet			
Date pulled:	H2O depth:	<input type="checkbox"/> pond <input type="checkbox"/> riv <input type="checkbox"/> wetland ecotone			
Hoop diam:	Mesh size ("):	% canopy cover (5m):	% shrub cover (5m):		
% em. herb cov (5m):	% sub. herb cover (5m):	Dominant sp:		Dist. to upland:	
Trap # 2 Coord. (dd.dddd, -dd.dddd):					
Date set:	Time set:	Wetland type (5m): <input type="checkbox"/> VP <input type="checkbox"/> em <input type="checkbox"/> ss <input type="checkbox"/> d fo wet			
Date pulled:	H2O depth:	<input type="checkbox"/> pond <input type="checkbox"/> riv <input type="checkbox"/> wetland ecotone			
Hoop diam:	Mesh size ("):	% canopy cover (5m):	% shrub cover (5m):		
% em. herb cov (5m):	% sub. herb cover (5m):	Dominant sp:		Dist. to upland:	
Trap # 3 Coord. (dd.dddd, -dd.dddd):					
Date set:	Time set:	Wetland type (5m): <input type="checkbox"/> VP <input type="checkbox"/> em <input type="checkbox"/> ss <input type="checkbox"/> d fo wet			
Date pulled:	H2O depth:	<input type="checkbox"/> pond <input type="checkbox"/> riv <input type="checkbox"/> wetland ecotone			
Hoop diam:	Mesh size ("):	% canopy cover (5m):	% shrub cover (5m):		
% em. herb cov (5m):	% sub. herb cover (5m):	Dominant sp:		Dist. to upland:	
Trap # 4 Coord. (dd.dddd, -dd.dddd):					
Date set:	Time set:	Wetland type (5m): <input type="checkbox"/> VP <input type="checkbox"/> em <input type="checkbox"/> ss <input type="checkbox"/> d fo wet			
Date pulled:	H2O depth:	<input type="checkbox"/> pond <input type="checkbox"/> riv <input type="checkbox"/> wetland ecotone			
Hoop diam:	Mesh size ("):	% canopy cover (5m):	% shrub cover (5m):		
% em. herb cov (5m):	% sub. herb cover (5m):	Dominant sp:		Dist. to upland:	
Trap # 5 Coord. (dd.dddd, -dd.dddd):					
Date set:	Time set:	Wetland type (5m): <input type="checkbox"/> VP <input type="checkbox"/> em <input type="checkbox"/> ss <input type="checkbox"/> d fo wet			
Date pulled:	H2O depth:	<input type="checkbox"/> pond <input type="checkbox"/> riv <input type="checkbox"/> wetland ecotone			
Hoop diam:	Mesh size ("):	% canopy cover (5m):	% shrub cover (5m):		
% em. herb cov (5m):	% sub. herb cover (5m):	Dominant sp:		Dist. to upland:	

Northeast Blanding's Turtle Project

TRA/LT Trap Check Form Instructions

Site: Use 6 letter site code: "State - County - 2 letter SiteID". For example: "MA-MI-GM" (=Mass., Middlesex, Great Meadows)

What date did you first set these traps for this trap event?

Today's date. This form should be completed each time traps are checked. One form should be completed / site / check day. If traps are checked every 48 hours, 6 forms will be completed for a 12 night LT site, 2 forms for a TRA site.

Note the number of Blanding's turtles in the trap.

Reference Point Number within the site: 1, 2, 3, or 4. Each site should have 4 reference points, surrounded by 400m buffers. 5 traps should be set in each reference point buffer. For a total of 20 traps at a site during a trap event LT events are 12 nights, TRA events are 4 nights.

Trap Number: Around each reference point, 5 traps should be placed.

Note any additional comments about the site, the weather, trap damage issues, etc. Note also 24 vs. 48 hour trap check, whether animals were placed back in the traps or removed.

Blanding's Turtle Trap Assessment

Trap check 2013 Field Form (4/13/13)

TRA LT

Site code:		State:		Obs:					
Set date:		Today's date:		Check this column if the trap is not working.					
Ref. Pt	Trap #	# EMBL	List EMBL ID #s	# CHPI	# CLGU	# CHSE	Other	Air Temp	H2O Temp
	1								
	2								
1	3								
	4								
	5								
2	3								
	4								
	5								
3	3								
	4								
	5								
4	3								
	4								
	5								

Comments:

Name (or initials) of observer.

Check the box in this column if the trap was not working that day (either had a hole, was not installed, etc.)

Check the air and water temperature once in each reference plot and record in these boxes. Air temperature should be taken in the shade. Water temperature should be taken 10 cm below the surface, adjacent to a trap.

Note the ID numbers of each Blanding's turtle observed in the trap today. Fill out an individual turtle observation form for each EMBL observed. If the numbers can not fit in this box, use the comments section at the bottom.

Note the number of Painted turtles, Spotted turtles, and Snapping turtles in the trap.

Note any other species observed in the trap (e.g., pickerel, chub, etc.).