



MASSWILDLIFE

# MASSACHUSETTS ANIMAL OBSERVATION FORM

**TRESPASSING NOTICE:** In making this observation form available for public use, MassWildlife does not authorize or condone entry onto private property without the owner's knowledge and permission. The unlawful trespass onto private property may subject a trespasser to the criminal or civil sanctions available under the law. For these reasons, MassWildlife strongly recommends that the permission of the landowner be obtained prior to entering private property to collect information for this form. It is the sole responsibility of each person collecting information for this form to ensure that their activities comply with the law.

## Observation Details

\*Species Name (scientific preferred): \_\_\_\_\_ \*Species/Target Found (Y / N)?

\*Town(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Directions to the observation location (if found) using permanent landmarks and cardinal directions. Please include potential accessibility obstacles or dangers (e.g., river crossing, tides). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Date(s) of observation (exact or date range): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Description of the diagnostic characteristics upon which the ID was based (including how distinguished from similar species): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Are you confident of this species ID (Y / N)? If No, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Was a specimen collected for deposition in a biological research collection (Y / N)? \*If yes, please indicate the repository: \_\_\_\_\_ Collection # (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Number of individuals observed [Precise count]: \_\_\_\_\_ OR [Estimate] minimum #: \_\_\_\_\_ maximum #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Location Information

\*Please attach a copy of the appropriate section of a USGS topo map, aerial photograph, or similar map (e.g., Google Earth map, GIS map, etc.), and carefully mark the specific site where you observed this rare species.

Site Coordinates (if available): Coord. projection (circle one): (UTM / Lat-Long / Mass. State Plane / Other \_\_\_\_\_)

Source of coordinates (circle one): (GPS / Google Earth / other GIS system (please specify \_\_\_\_\_))

Coordinates at original observation location

If reporting >1 one location, please indicate count per site:

Obs #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Obs #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Obs #3: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Required Fields: For this report to be accepted into MassWildlife's database, all required fields, including signature field, must be completed. MassWildlife may request additional information following report submission. Please submit field forms, maps with specific location clearly marked, and all supporting documentation to: NHESP Data Management, MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

Population Information

Have you observed this species at this site in previous years (Y / N)? If yes, please give details: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, include any available unique ID to an external tracking system/database: \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, animal ID number (e.g., band number, notch code, PIT tag): \_\_\_\_\_

If known, provide sex and age/life stage: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe how the age and sex were determined: \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence (if any) of breeding activity at this site (e.g. eggs, nests, carrying food to young, copulation, juveniles present):

\_\_\_\_\_

Other behavioral notes (e.g., crossing road, basking): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reference used (e.g., field guide): \_\_\_\_\_ I have experience identifying this species: (Y / N)

Was the organism's species identification made by someone other than the observer? (Y / N) If yes, please provide their name and contact info: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Information

Describe the habitat at this location (if possible, include dominant vegetation, patch size, local land use, alterations to ecological processes (e.g., damming, logging)): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Associated species at this location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Water Depth: \_\_\_\_\_ (inches / feet / meters) Water Clarity (circle one): (clear / turbid / milky / tea/tannic / green / foamy)

Was this animal observed adjacent to or in a roadway? (Y / N)

If yes, select one: (dead on road / alive on side of road / alive crossing road)

Describe the invasive species present at this site and indicate their perceived threat level (select one):

(high / medium / low / none) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe other observed threats to the population at this site (e.g., disease, predation, disruptive land uses) and indicate their perceived threat level (select one): (high / medium / low / none) \_\_\_\_\_

What are your recommendations for future inventory, monitoring, research, and/or management? \_\_\_\_\_

What are your protection recommendations? \_\_\_\_\_

EO#, if known: \_\_\_\_\_ EO ID, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner's name and address, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Observers: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount time spent surveying (person hours): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Data Submission Information

**\*Photographs taken (Y / N)** If yes, please submit a clear photo or electronic digital image of the animal showing diagnostic features. On image, please indicate your name, the date, location, and species.

**Is this observation associated with a NHESP Review File? (Yes / No / Unknown)**

If Yes, please list NHESP file/tracking #, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

**Is this observation associated with a NHESP Review File? (Yes / No / Unknown)**

If Yes, please list Collection permit #, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Observer Information and Certification

**\*Observed at original location by** (please sign below): \_\_\_\_\_

**Observer's Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email (if available):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliations/Qualifications:** \_\_\_\_\_

I certify under pains and penalties of perjury that the information in this report is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

**\*Observer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



Thank you for contributing to MassWildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program database. Your efforts are valuable and appreciated. For more ways you can support the over 400 rare plants and animals of Massachusetts please visit [mass.gov/supportNHESP](http://mass.gov/supportNHESP)