

How to Take Identifiable Photos of Turtles for iNaturalist.ca

If you find a turtle on a road, take note of what direction it is moving towards. You can pick up the turtle using a shovel or with your hands to **move it across the road in the direction it is heading**. If you do pick the turtle up using your hands, grip it on the sides (except for Snapping Turtles). Snapping turtles may bite so grip these at the very back near the tail and be extra cautious when moving. Do not hold or pull turtles by the tail.

1 The **pattern, colour and shape of the shell** can be different depending on the species. Try to get an in-focus photo of the turtle at different angles to help others identify it.

Pro Tip

Turtles are often seen basking on logs or rocks in wetlands, particularly on sunny days. You can spot them by scanning the wetland with binoculars. Sometimes taking a photo through a binocular lens works, but a **digital camera** with a zoom will greatly improve your ability to capture key features.

2 Capturing **patterns and colours on the head**, particularly near the ears and on the throat, can be helpful when identifying turtle species.

3 If you are helping a turtle across the road or find a deceased turtle, take a moment to get a photo of the **bottom shell** for identification purposes. **Please note:** do not handle turtles unnecessarily, as all Canadian turtles are now considered species-at-risk and are protected by law.

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For your safety and theirs, please do not harass wildlife. Keep your distance and move on after taking a few photos. It is the law in many national and provincial parks to keep a minimum distance away from wildlife. It is also illegal to harass species-at-risk anywhere in Canada.



For more information, please visit iNaturalist.ca/help.