



Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*)

Size: Carapace diameter, up to 23.5 cm **Weight:** Up to 600 g **Habitat:** A variety of habitat types throughout the eastern U.S.A. **Surviving number:** Unknown; populations declining



Photographed by Todd Pusser

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Slow going. Over the course of a lifetime as long as 80 years, the eastern box turtle does everything slowly. It lays eggs every other year and is content with a "slow food" diet that includes fruit, seeds, flowers, roots and grasses. This diet makes it an important seed disperser. When threatened, the turtle can seal itself away completely thanks to a hinge on

the lower part of the shell, but even built-in protection is powerless against habitat loss, vehicle strikes and the pet trade. Populations are falling fast.

As Canon sees it, images have the power to raise awareness of the threats facing endangered species and the natural environment, helping us make the world a better place.



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