



AZGFD  
Game Management & Nongame  
Wildlife Conservation Programs

# WILDLIFE TRACKS & TRAILS

## Kestrel Nest Box Study



Photos (clockwise starting top left: photos by Paul Schnell; Julie Brinkman; Brian Grimaldi)

This year the Department began contributing to a national effort to monitor a declining bird of prey, the American kestrel. With up to 66% population declines documented in Arizona by long term studies like USGS's Breeding Bird Surveys, Audubon's Christmas Birds Counts, and migration counts, additional data is needed on this fierce little falcon found across North America.

The goal of this study is to conserve and monitor kestrels in Arizona while providing rewarding op-

portunities for the community.

So far, the Department has partnered with over 25 land managers including private, tribal, non-profit, government, and other non-government entities interested in contributing to the study.

Nearly 40 nest boxes are up around the state, and more are added every week. Although kestrels are the target species, it is not uncommon for screech owls, wood peckers, blue birds and other cavity nesters to use nest boxes.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting citizen scientist project, contact **Kurt Licence** for more information at: [raptors@azgfd.gov](mailto:raptors@azgfd.gov)



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## #TRENDINGNOW

### Snail Hunting: Citizen Science in Action

Whether you are a professional biologist or backyard naturalist, we could use your help in documenting land snails in our neighborhoods and wild places. The Department recently developed a new project for the Internet-based iNaturalist database—"Land Snails of Arizona". This is a great opportunity for the public, students, volunteers, employees, and agency partners to get involved in citizen science.

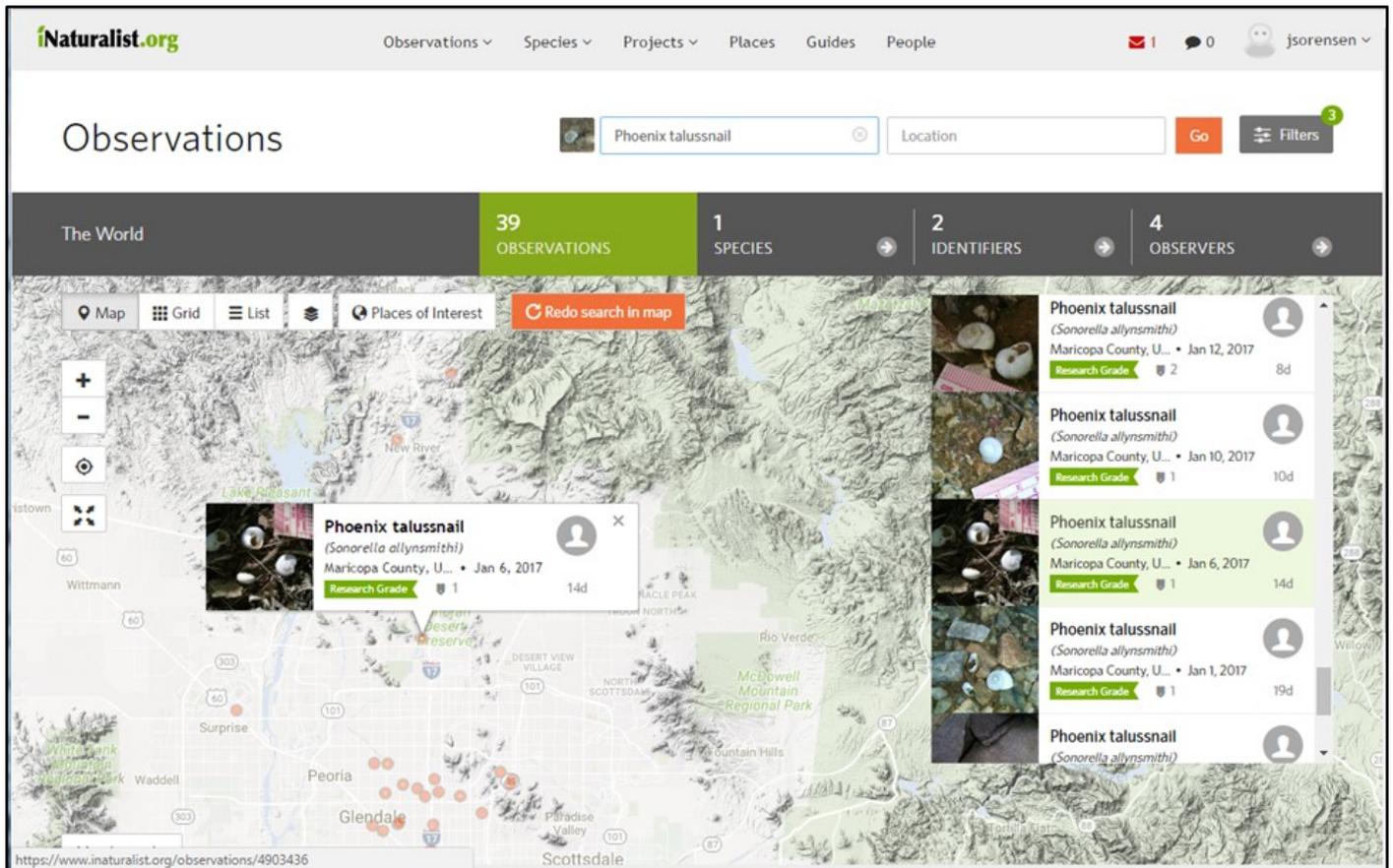
Just install the iNaturalist app (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

[pages/getting+started](#)) to your smartphone or tablet (both Apple and Android supported) and join this project to record snail observations while you are out hiking, hunting, or exploring the outdoors. It's easy to use, and helps further our knowledge on land snail distributions, some of which are considered possibly rare or at risk.

One of the snail species that we are focusing this effort on is the Phoenix talussnail (*Sonorella allynsmithi*) that is found in numerous desert

mountain preserves and hillsides in the Valley of the Sun. The Phoenix talussnail is one of a dozen Arizona snails that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be evaluating in another five to seven years on whether it should be federally-listed as threatened or endangered, or not. The more data we have available on this species, the more informed we will be on its status and distribution.

**Jeff Sorensen**





## PARTNERS IN ACTION

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*In February 2017, Management at the Enchantment Resort in Sedona have started a conservation program and have introduced 4 kestrel boxes on the property.*

## PUBLICATIONS

Sorensen, J.A. and A.J. Martinez. 2016. Survey Data for Wet Canyon Talussnail (*Sonorella macrophallus*) and Other Pinaleno Mountain Land Snails, 6445-2016. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program Technical Report #295. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona.

For more information about any of these articles, visit [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)

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