

Be on the lookout for this

INVASIVE SPECIES

In Florida

#LargeLizardLookout

Argentine black and white tegu

There are more species of non-native lizards reproducing in Florida than native. The Argentine black and white tegu is one of those. Learn more about their threat and how to report sightings.

Large Lizards on the Loose

Native to Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, tegus were introduced through the pet trade and have been found throughout Florida and as far north as Georgia. They are breeding in Miami-Dade, Charlotte, and Hillsborough counties, and spreading from these core areas.

Size

Grow up to 1.5 m (5 ft)

Lifespan

Live up to 20 years

Habitat

Variable: Ranges from rainforest to semi-desert. These ground-dwelling lizards prefer to live near water and dig burrows.

Diet

Omnivorous: eat both plants and animals. This includes eggs, fruits, insects, other reptiles, and even small mammals.

Reproduction

Lay average of 35 eggs starting at age 3 to 4 years

Why are they a threat in Florida?

- Popular in the pet trade
- Documented eating alligator and turtle eggs
- Seen disturbing protected crocodile nest
- Eat gopher tortoise hatchlings
- Population is expanding in Florida
- Can survive colder months by burrowing underground
- Extensive canals facilitate spread

Tegus are a threat to these Florida natives:
And many more...



American alligator



Gopher tortoise



American crocodile



Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow

Report invasive species to IveGot1.org or 1-888-IVEGOT1

Be on the lookout for this

INVASIVE SPECIES

In Florida

#BackyardCanalWatch

Nile monitor

There are more species of non-native lizards reproducing in Florida than native species. The Nile monitor is one of those lizards. Learn more about their threat and how to report sightings in Florida.

Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*)

Native to sub-Saharan Africa and breeding in Palm Beach and Lee counties, Florida.

FLORIDA

Why are they a threat in Florida?

- Popular in the pet trade
- Target crocodile eggs
- Have been found near American crocodile nesting habitat in south Florida
- Largest population located in Cape Coral, FL, is also home to state's largest burrowing owl population
- Eat burrowing owl eggs
- Opportunistic hunters that can traverse land and water

Size

Grow up to 2.1 m (7 ft)

Lifespan

Live up to 20 years

Habitat

These semi-aquatic lizards thrive near water. They are strong swimmers, climbers, and prefer living near canals, lakes, and rivers.

Diet

Carnivorous: primarily eat meat including fish, invertebrates, reptiles and their eggs, birds and their eggs, and small mammals.

Reproduction

Lay up to 60 eggs starting at age 2 years (35.5 cm or 14 in)

Monitors are a threat to these Florida natives:
And many more...



Burrowing owl



Nesting sea turtles



Gopher tortoise



American crocodile

Report invasive species to IveGot1.org or 1-888-IVEGOT1