

# **Turtle Observations from the Jack Lake Watershed, 2014-2016**



**October 2016**

Steven J. Kerr  
Jack Lake Association  
Apsley, Ontario

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Cover Photo – Kristy Maguire

## Introduction

Ontario is home to eight different species of turtle. Seven turtle species have been designated as Species at Risk (Table 1). Three species of turtle are found in the Jack Lake watershed.

Table 1. Status of Ontario turtles (\*Range includes the Jack Lake area).

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status</b>
Blandings Turtle ( <i>Emydoidea blandingii</i> )*	Threatened
Eastern Box Turtle ( <i>Terrapene carolina</i> )	Extirpated
Midland Painted Turtle ( <i>Chrysemys picta</i> )*	No Status
Northern Map Turtle ( <i>Graptemys geographica</i> )	Special Concern
Snapping Turtle ( <i>Chelydra serpentina</i> )*	Special Concern
Spiny Softshell ( <i>Apalone spinifera spinifera</i> )	Threatened
Spotted Turtle ( <i>Clemmys guttata</i> )	Endangered
Wood Turtle ( <i>Glyptemys insculpta</i> )	Endangered

On a provincial basis, turtle observations are stored in the Ontario Herpetofaunal Survey database (Crowley undated). Prior to 2014 there were records of 4 Blandings turtles, 8 snapping turtles and 10 midland painted turtles in that database. Members of the Jack Lake Association have sporadically contributed to this database over the years but a concerted effort was initiated in 2014 to solicit volunteers from around the lake to report turtle observations. Over the past three years (2014-2016) JLA volunteers have made a substantial contribution (recorded observations of 155 individual turtles) to the knowledge of the distribution and general status of turtles in the Jack Lake watershed (Table 2). Individual observations, combined with data from the Ontario Herpetofaunal Survey, have been summarized by Kerr (2016).

Table 2. Turtle Observations from the Jack Lake area (Square 17QK35). Data was derived from the Ontario Herpetofaunal Survey supplemented by observations from volunteers of the Jack Lake Association.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Specimens Observed</b>		
	<b>Blandings Turtle</b>	<b>Midland Painted Turtle</b>	<b>Snapping Turtle</b>
1987	-	-	1
1988	-	1	1
1994	-	-	1
1999	-	1	-
2007	1	1	2
2008	1	1	2
2009	1	8	2
2010	4	8	-
2011	3	3	-
2012	2	2	5
2013	1	7	5
2014	2	32	12
2015	3	58	20
2016	5	14	16
Summary	23	136	56

Relatively few observations have been made on turtle hatchlings. On September 10, 2013 a small young-of year snapping turtle (3-4 inches in length) was noted to be heading towards Jack Lake apparently from its nest site near Narrows Point road (between Robbins and Crane Bay) (Rod Crawford personal communication).

On September 3 and 4, 2016, several (8-10 individuals) small (1.5-2 inches in length) snapping turtles were noted in shallow water adjacent to a small sand beach on the northeast shoreline of Rathbun Bay (Zach Mabee and Anique Bertrand personal communication).

Historic sitings of turtles in the Jack Lake watershed have been summarized in the Atlas of Fauna in the Jack Lake watershed (Kerr 2016). It is hoped that continued efforts of JLA volunteers in the future will enable the additional accumulation of data from which to monitor and protect our turtles.

### **Acknowledgements**

The Jack Lake Association would like to thank all individuals who participated in this volunteer program over Daryl Aitken, Debra Anthony, Tammy Bannock, Bob Bowles, Dennis Davenport, Mary Derks, Shari Fulmer, Laurence Goldberg, Sheelagh Hysenaj, Amanda James, Judy Kiffer, Allan, Karen and Steven Kerr, Neill Lanz, Kristy Maquire, Denyze Martial, Martin Parker, and Arnold and Linda Tripp

### **Literature Cited**

Crowley, J. undated. The Ontario reptile and amphibian atlas. Ontario Nature. Toronto, Ontario.

Kerr, S. J. 2016. Fauna of the Jack Lake watershed. Jack lake Association. Apsley, Ontario.

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October 2016

### Turtle Observations in the Jack Lake Area During the 2014 Season.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observers</b>	<b>Misc. Information</b>
May 18	Blandings Turtle	Jack Lake road (near landscaping business).	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Turtle was moved off the road.
May 18	Snapping Turtle	Rathbun Bay	Steven Kerr	-
May (date unknown)	Snapping Turtle	Rathbun Bay (south shore)	Dennis Davenport	-
June 7	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy road	Steven Kerr	-
June 8	Snapping Turtle	Jack Lake road (pond near glass maker studio).	Sheelagh Hysenaj	-
June 14	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy road (small pool beside road)	Steven Kerr	Turtle was basking on a small log.
June 28	Midland Painted Turtle	Highway 504 (south of Apsley)	Steven Kerr	-
July 1	Snapping Turtle	McCoy road (near Peterborough Crown Game Preserve sign)	Steven Kerr	Adult turtle observed on gravel shoulder of road.
July 1	Snapping Turtle	Highway 504 (south of Apsley)	Steven Kerr	One small turtle observed on side of road.
July 13	Midland Painted Turtle	Brooks Bay (southwest)	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Fifteen turtles observed basking on logs.

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>	<b>Misc. Information</b>
July 13	Midland Painted Turtle	Brooks Bay (northwest)	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Six turtles observed basking on logs.
July 13	Midland Painted Turtle	Highway 504 (south of Apsley)	Steven Kerr	Turtle observed on the gravel shoulder of road.
July 18	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy Bay wetland	Sheelagh Hysenaj	One turtle observed.
July 23	Snapping Turtle	Narrows (east shore at south end)	Daryl Aitken	Four turtles (2 large and 2 smaller) observed.
July 25	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy road wetland (near Highway 504)	Steven Kerr	Two turtles basking (on separate logs).
July	Snapping Turtle	Sharpe's Bay	Judy Kiffer	Large turtle regularly seen under the dock.

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## Turtle Observations in the Jack Lake Area during the 2015 Season.

Date	Species	Location	Observer(s)	Misc. Information
May 15	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy road near Highway 504	Steven Kerr	Turtle was crossing the road.
May 18	Midland Painted Turtle	Brooks Bay (west end)	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Twenty-two turtles observed.
	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy road	Steven Kerr	One turtle on shoulder of gravel road.
June 5	Snapping Turtle	Highway 28 between Apsley and McCoy road.	Steven Kerr	Seven turtles observed (5 nesting on road side and two moving along roadside (late afternoon)
	Blandings Turtle	Highway 504	Steven Kerr	Turtle on roadside (late afternoon).
	Blandings Turtle	McCoy road (between Hwy 504 And Rathbun spur)	Steven and Allan Kerr	Two different individual turtles observed.
	Midland Painted Turtle	Highway 28 between Apsley and McCoy road.	Steven Kerr	Turtle on roadside (late afternoon).
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy road	Steven Kerr	One turtle on nest.
	Snapping Turtle	North shore of Rathbun Bay	Steven Kerr	Turtle in parking area moving away from lake in search of a nest site.
	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy road	Steven Kerr	Three turtles observed.
June 6-7	Snapping Turtle	Jack Lake road (latitude 44°71'24", longitude 78°06'57")	Sheelagh Hysenaj	One snapping turtle observed and several painted turtles observed.
	Snapping Turtle	Jack Lake road (latitude 44°71'10" longitude 78°06'57")	Sheelagh Hysenaj	One snapping turtle observed near the Narrows Point turnoff.
	Snapping Turtle	Jack Lake road (latitude 44°72'64" longitude 78°06'96")	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Two nesting turtles observed.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>	<b>Misc. Information</b>
June 7	Blandings Turtle	Side of road (NAD83), GPS reading 18 T 0262893 4959980)	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	Early evening at air temperature of 20C.
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy road (2 km from Highway 28)	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	One snapping turtle laying eggs. Air temperature was 20C during early evening.
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy Road (FR 85) south of 85B to end of road	Bob Bowles, Neill Lanz and Steven Kerr	Four predated nests near wetland at NAD 83 (GPA reading 18 T 0262518)
June 8	Snapping Turtle	GPS reading 17 T 0735756 4960718	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	Large specimen.
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy road driveway#846 (GPS reading 17 T 0733941 49600025)	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	Turtle looking for a nest site.
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy road driveway #840 (GPS reading 17 T 0733872 0733872)	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	-
	Snapping Turtle	GPS reading 17 T 0731463 4959744	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	Turtle looking for nest site.
	Snapping Turtle	Highway 504 approx. 5 km from Apsley (GPS reading 17 T 0732260 4959818)	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	Near a large wetland area. Animal had been hit on the road – still alive but had a cracked carapace. There were 5 other snapping turtle nests which had been predated in the same general area.
	Snapping Turtle	GPS reading 17 T 0737476	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	-
	Snapping Turtle	Highway 504	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>	<b>Misc. Information</b>
June 8 (cont'd)	Snapping Turtle	McCoy Road (FR85) south to end of road. (NAD 83 GPS reading 18 T 0262869 4952181)	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	Early morning observation of turtle seeking a nesting site.
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy Road (FR85) south to end of road (GPS reading 18 T 0262585 4951688)	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	Turtle seeking a nest site during a period of light rain.
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy road at junction of FR85 and FR85R (GPS reading of 18 T 0262585 4952322)	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	-
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy road (GPS reading 18 T 0262518 4952492)	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	Two predated snapping turtle nest observed – load of granular gravel dumped at site to improve nesting habitat.
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy road (GPS reading 18 T 0263243 4957554)	Bob Bowles and Neill Lanz	One turtle observed.
June 11	Midland Painted Turtle	Small pond along Jack Lake road	Martin Parker	Approximately 30 turtles basking on logs.

## Turtle Observations in the Jack Lake Area during the 2016 Season

Date	Species	Location	Observer(s)	Misc. Information
May 20	Painted Turtle	McCoy Road	Kristy Maguire	Two turtles observed.
May 26	Blandings Turtle	Highway 504 midway between Apsley and McCoy Road	Steven Kerr	Adult on the side of the road – small adjacent wetlands on either side of road.
	Painted Turtle	Highway 504 midway between Apsley and McCoy Road	Steven Kerr	Dead on road a short distance from the Blandings turtle siting.
	Painted Turtle	McCoy Road (culvert before Y in the road)	Kristy Maguire	Dead on road.
May 29	Painted Turtle	Jack Lake Road (near marinas)	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Dead on road.
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy Road (near Hwy 504)	Arnold and Linda Tripp	Turtle was crossing road.
	Blandings Turtle	Highway 504 (near Apsley)	Arnold and Linda Tripp	Turtle was crossing road.
May 30	Painted Turtle	Rathbun Bay spur road (near access to Johnston cottage)	Neill Lanz and Denyze Martial	Turtle was digging a nest.
June 1	Blandings Turtle	Jack Lake road	Kristy Maguire	Basking turtle was moved off the side of the road.
June 2	Snapping Turtle	Jack Lake Road (culvert on FR52; 44°40'58.2" 78°03'57.5")	Kristy Maguire	Turtle was crossing road.
	Painted Turtle	Highway 28 (Eels Creek)	Allan and Karen Kerr	Turtle was dead on road.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>	<b>Misc. Information</b>
June 2 (cont'd)	Blandings Turtle	McCoy Road (2.0 km from Hwy 504)	Allan and Karen Kerr	-
June 3	Painted Turtle	Highway 504 (near Apsley Country Bakery)	Steven Kerr	Turtle was dead on road.
	Painted Turtle	McCoy Road (at Y in the road)	Steven Kerr	Turtle was moved off the road.
June 4	Snapping Turtle	Jack Lake Road (south Sharpe's Bay)	Kristy Maguire	Two different turtles were both laying eggs - photographs taken
	Snapping Turtle	East Bay	Unidentified	-
June 5	Snapping Turtle	Jack Lake Road (south Sharpe's Bay)	Kristy Maguire	Turtle laying eggs – evidence of two other attempted nest on shoulder of gravel road – photographs taken.
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy Road (at Maggie's swimming hole)	Steven and Allan Kerr	Mid-sized turtle laying eggs on the shoulder of the road adjacent to a small wetland.
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy Road (near PCGP sign)	Steven and Allan Kerr	Historic nesting site – nest excavated and turtle laying eggs on shoulder of road adjacent to a small wetland.
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy Road (approximately ½ km from Hwy 504)	Steven and Allan Kerr	Nest excavated and turtle laying eggs on shoulder of road adjacent to a small wetland.
June 8	Snapping Turtle	Sheeps Island	Mary Derks	Large turtle laying eggs.
June 11	Painted Turtle	Highway 504 (south of Apsley)	Karen Kerr	Four different turtles observed – one was dead on road.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>	<b>Misc. Information</b>
June 11	Snapping Turtle	Redmond Bay	Ally Fodero	Snapping turtle laying eggs on freshly sodded area.
June 11	Snapping Turtle	Jack Lake road (44°71'2329" 78°06'6573")	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Nesting turtles.Nesting turtles.
June 16	Snapping Turtle	Trail between Jack and Little Jack Lake	Steven Kerr	Several (3-4) predated nests observed.
	Snapping Turtle	Highway 504	Allan and Karen Kerr	Two different turtles – both nesting.
	Painted Turtle	McCoy Road (near Hwy 504)	Karen Kerr	Turtle was moved off the road.
June 17	Painted Turtle	Highway 504 (between Apsley and McCauley Road)	Steven Kerr	Turtle was in the middle of the highway.
June 20	Snapping Turtle	Brooks Bay (west end)	Sheelagh Hysenaj	One turtle observed.
	Painted Turtle	Brooks Bay (west end)	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Four turtles observed.
June 24	Snapping Turtle	Rathbun Bay (north shore)	Allan Kerr	Large turtle observed swimming along shoreline.
	Snapping Turtle	McCoy Road (near PCGP sign)	Unidentified	-
	Painted Turtle	Rathbun Bay (north shore)	Allan Kerr	Turtle observed swimming along shoreline.
Last week in June	Blandings Turtle	McCoy Road	Amanda James and Kristy Maguire	-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Observer (s)</b>	<b>Misc. Information</b>
July 4	Painted Turtle	Callahan Bay (east side)	Debra Anthony	Turtle was basking on a small floating log.
July 16	Snapping Turtle	Rathbun Bay (south shore)	Tammy Bannock	Large specimen observed under dock.
August 6	Snapping Turtle	Redmond Bay	Laurence Goldberg	Turtle (the size of a large frying pan) was making its way along the shoreline in shallow water. A photo was taken.
August 8	Snapping Turtle	Williams Bay	Shari Fulmer	Turtle seen on a regular basis. A photo was taken.
September 3-4	Snapping Turtle	Rathbun Bay (northeast shore)	Zack Mabee and Anique Bertrand	8-10 new hatchings observed in nearshore area adjacent to small sandy beach.
September 13	Snapping Turtle	McCoy Road (at Rathbun spur)	Denyze Martial	Four small hatchings all dead on road.

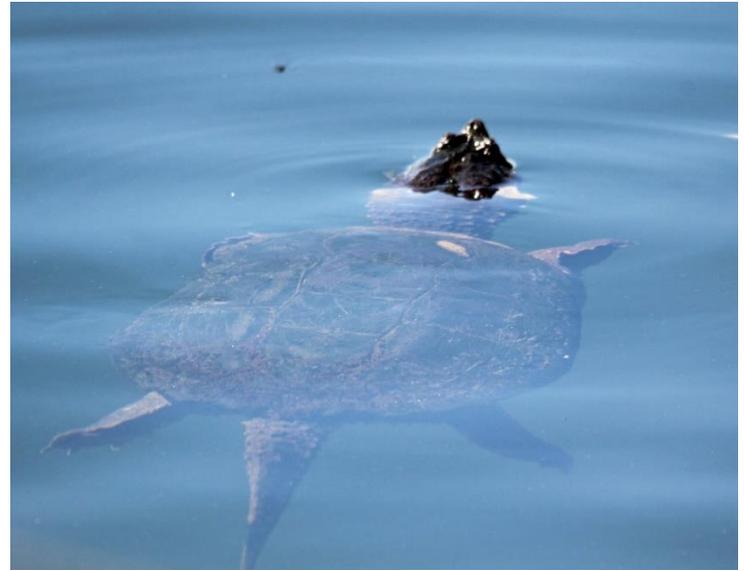
**Selected 2016 Turtle Photos from Jack Lake**  
(photos by Debra Anthony, Shari Fulmer, Steven Kerr and Kristy Maguire)



**Blandings Turtle**



**Snapping Turtle**



**Snapping Turtles**



**Snapping Turtles**



**Midland Painted Turtles**