

Results of the 2021 Turtle Tally on Jack Lake



Steven J. Kerr
Jack Lake Association
November 2021

Suggested citation: Kerr, S. J. 2021. Results of the 2021 Turtle Tally on Jack Lake. Jack Lake Association. Apsley, Ontario. 4 p. + appendices.

Cover Photo: A Jack Lake snapping turtle (Amy MacArthur photo).

Introduction

The Jack Lake area supports six of the eight turtle species found in Ontario. Although turtle observations from Jack Lake have been recorded since 1987, a more comprehensive approach was instituted in 2014 (see Kerr 2020).

This report has been prepared to summarize turtle observations recorded during 2021.

2021 Observations

A total of 100 individual turtles, comprised of at least three different species, were reported during 2021. The seasonal distribution of turtle observations is summarized in Table 1. The first reported turtle observation (a snapping turtle) was on April 14. No turtle observations were reported after September. In several instances (7) turtles were moved off a road.

Table 1. Temporal distribution of turtles observed during the 2021 Turtle Tally on Jack Lake.

Species	April	May	June	July	August	September	Season Total
Blandings	2	0	4	0	0	0	6
Midland Painted	5	26	27	3	3	0	64
Snapping	3	2	14	2	0	1	22
Unidentified	0	7	1	0	0	0	8
Monthly Total	10	35	46	5	3	1	100

Turtle nesting activity was reported on seven different occasions (Table 2). All of the observed turtle nesting activity occurred during the first two weeks of June.

Table 2. Observed turtle nesting activity observed during 2021 in the Jack Lake area.

Date	Species	Activity observed
June 1	Midland Painted	Nest digging
June 4	Snapping	Laying eggs
June 8	Blandings	Laying eggs
June 8	Snapping	Laying eggs
June 11	Snapping	Laying eggs
June 12	Snapping	Laying eggs
June 12	Snapping	Laying eggs

Comparisons with Earlier Surveys

There were several differences in 2021 compared with earlier surveys. Firstly the number of participants was the highest (40) since the program began in 2014 (Table 3). The 2021 survey

recorded the greatest number of individual turtles (100) of any year to date. Despite this, there were no eastern musk turtles or northern map turtles reported in 2021.

Table 3. A comparative summary of turtle observations from Jack Lake, 2014-2021.

Year	No. Participants	Blandings	Eastern Musk	Painted	Northern Map	Snapping	Spotted
2014	5	2	0	32	0	12	0
2015	6	3	0	58	0	20	0
2016	17	5	0	14	0	16	0
2017	31	6	0	60	2	21	0
2018	33	7	0	43	6	34	0
2019	30	11	1	51	4	17	1
2020	20	4	1	48	3	13	0
2021	40	6	0	64	0	22	0

Acknowledgements

The 2021 turtle tally on Jack Lake was due to the collective efforts of numerous volunteers including (listed alphabetically) Daryl Aitken, Heather Bee, Nicole Brady, Tim Cork, Brian Currie, Ruth Davenport, Laura Dempsey, Mary Derks, Ally Fodero, Laura Francis, Rebecca Gardiner, Tess Greenwood, Mike Jensen, Steven Kerr, Ted Kingdon, David Lean, Mario Loeb-McQuaker, Darlene Lomax, Pete Lomax, Tracey Mann, Amy McArthur, Jan Meharg, Pamela Miller, Tracey Moore, Kristina Nichole, Diane Nicholls, Jennifer Payne, Patti Phillips, Tina Porter, Alan Quarry, Pat Richards, Mary Rose, Jodi Srigley-Dillon, Krista Thompson, Stephanie Thorson, Jan Van Velzen, Lorna Walden, Steve Waldon, Christina Welton and Sherry Wasser.

References

Kerr, Steven J. 2020. Results of the 2020 turtle tally on Jack Lake. Jack Lake Association. Apsley, Ontario. 4 p. + appendices.

Appendix 1. Individual turtle observations recorded in the Jack Lake area during 2021.

Date	Turtle Species	Observer	Site/Location	Details
April 14	Snapping Turtle	Tim Cork	FR 89	Photo taken
April 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Laura Dempsey	Brooks Bay (north shore)	Photo taken
April 24	Snapping Turtle	Heather Bee	Hatton Bay	Small young specimen (hatchling?) Photo taken
April (day unrecorded)	Blandings Turtle	Tess Greenwood	Not recorded	Turtle moved off the road.
April (day unrecorded)	Blandings Turtle	Jodi Srigley-Dillon	Brooks Bay	Photos taken
April (day unrecorded)	Snapping Turtle	Christina Welton	Sharpe's Bay	Large specimen
April (day unrecorded)	Midland Painted Turtle	Diane Nicholls	Whitetail Drive	Small turtle on the road
April (day unrecorded)	Midland Painted Turtle	Jennifer Payne	Redmond Bay	Photos taken.
April (day unrecorded)	Midland Painted Turtle	Pamela Miller	Hwy 504 (6 km from Apsley)	Two turtles in a pond.
May 4	Midland Painted Turtle	Christina Welton	Sharpe's Bay	Five turtles observed Photos taken
May 20	Midland Painted Turtle	Mario Loeb McQuaker	Jack Lake road	-
May 22	Midland Painted Turtle	Jodi Srigley-Dillon	Brooks Bay	Very small specimen Photo taken
May 22	Not identified	Mary Rose	Callahan Bay (near East Bay)	-
May 24	Midland Painted Turtle	Laura Francis	Island 16	Three turtles observed on a stump.
May 24	Midland Painted Turtle	Christina Welton	Not recorded	Thirteen turtles sunbathing on logs

Date	Turtle Species	Observer	Site/Location	Details
May 24	Snapping Turtle	Christina Welton	Not recorded	Large specimen
May 24	Not identified	Mary Derks	Brooks Bay (Forest Glen Marina)	Turtle was swimming around the dock.
May 26	Midland Painted Turtle	Tracey Manne	Jack Lake road (near FR89)	Photo taken
May 29	Midland Painted Turtle	Christina Welton	Sharpe's Bay (north)	Turtle was sunning on a log. Photo taken
May 31	Midland Painted Turtle	Ted Kingdon	McCoy road (FR85A)	Photo taken
May 31	Snapping Turtle	Rebecca Gardiner	Miller Bay	-
May 31	Not identified	Rebecca Gardiner	Miller Bay	Five turtles observed
June 1	Midland Painted Turtle	Sherry Wasser	Narrows Point Road	Turtle was digging a nest. Photos taken.
June 3	Blandings Turtle	Kristina Nicholl	Sharpe's Bay	Turtle observed near the dock.
June 4	Snapping Turtle	Alan Quarry	Sharpe's Bay	Large turtle observed under the dock.
June 4	Midland Painted Turtle	Tracey Moore	Jack Lake road (near Jack Lake lodge)	Shell was approx. 4 inches long. Turtle moved off the road. Photos taken.
June 4	Midland Painted Turtle	Krista Thompson	Jack Lake road	Approximately 8 inches in length
June 4	Midland Painted Turtle	Brian Currie	FR85N	-
June 4	Midland Painted Turtle	David Lean	Hwy 504 (2 km south of Apsley)	-
June 4	Midland Painted Turtle	David Lean	Hwy 504 (4 km south of Apsley)	-
June 4	Midland Painted Turtle	Jan Van Velzen	McCoy Road (near Hwy 504)	-

Date	Turtle Species	Observer	Site/Location	Details
June 4	Snapping Turtle	Jan Meharg	Sharpe's Bay	Turtle was laying eggs. Photo taken.
June 5	Snapping Turtle	Steven Kerr	Hwy 504 south of Apsley (wetland near bakery)	Adult at side of road.
June 5	Blandings Turtle	Steven Kerr	McCoy road (near junction with Hwy 504)	Adult at side of road.
June 5	Blandings Turtle	Pat Richards	Jack Lake road	Photo taken
June 5	Midland Painted Turtle	Pat Richards	Jack Lake road	Three turtles moved off the road.
June 5	Midland Painted Turtle	Lorna Walden	FR85D	Photo taken
June 5	Midland Painted Turtle	Tina Porter	Hatton Bay	Two turtles observed.
June 6	Snapping Turtle	Jodi Srigler-Dillon	Shady Lane	Photos taken.
June 8	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr	McCoy road wetland	One turtle basking on a log.
June 8	Blandings Turtle	Nicole Brady	Not recorded	Photo taken of turtle laying eggs.
June 8	Snapping Turtle	Stephanie Thorson	FR 85A	Turtle was laying eggs.
June 9	Snapping Turtle	David Lean	Hwy 504 (2 km south of Apsley)	Photo taken
June 9	Snapping Turtle	David Lean	McCoy road (near PCGP sign)	Photo taken
June 9	Snapping Turtle	Amy MacArthur	Casement Island (Sharpe's Bay)	Photos taken
June 9	Midland Painted Turtle	Steve Walden	Redmond Bay	Photo taken.
June 11	Snapping Turtle	Christina Welton	FR89D	Turtle was laying eggs Photos taken

Date	Turtle Species	Observer	Site/Location	Details
June 11	Snapping Turtle	David Lean	McCoy road (near PCGP sign)	Photo taken
June 12	Midland Painted Turtle	Mike Jensen	Jack Lake road	Photo taken
June 12	Snapping Turtle	Christina Walton	Sharpe's Bay (north shore)	Turtle was laying eggs. Photo taken
June 12	Snapping Turtle	Ally Fodero	Redmond Bay	Turtle was laying eggs. Photo taken
June 13	Midland Painted Turtle	Patti Phillips	Sharpe's Bay (north shore)	Photo taken
June 15	Midland Painted Turtle	Darlene Lomax	Jack Lake road	Photo taken
June 15	Midland Painted Turtle	David Lean	McCoy road (4 km from Hwy 504)	Photo taken
June 18	Snapping Turtle	Daryl Aitken	East Bay	Large turtle
June 21	Midland Painted Turtle	Darlene Lomax	Jack Lake road	Photo taken
June 25	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr	McCoy road wetland	Turtle was basking on a log.
June (day unrecorded)	Midland Painted Turtle	David Lean	McCoy road	Photo taken
June (day unrecorded)	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Centre Bay	Four turtles all measuring 8-10 inches in length.
June (day unrecorded)	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Centre Bay	Small turtle measuring about 2 inches long. Photo taken.
June (day unrecorded)	Snapping Turtle	Tim Cork	Center Bay (west side)	Turtle measured approximately 12 inches in length.
June (day unrecorded)	Not identified	Peter Lomax	Jack Lake road	-

Date	Turtle Species	Observer	Site/Location	Details
July 6	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr	McCoy road	Turtle was moved off the road.
July 18	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr	McCoy road wetland	Small-mid sized turtle basking on a log.
July 24	Midland Painted Turtle	Ruth Davenport	McCoy Bay wetland	Large specimen Photo taken.
July 28	Snapping Turtle	Tim Cork	Fire road 89 (Centre Bay)	Large specimen
July 30	Snapping Turtle	Steven Kerr	McCoy road	Large specimen which was moved off the road.
August 6	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Rathbun Bay (west of the narrows)	Two turtles basking on a log.
August 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr	Small wetland on McCoy Road (near Hwy. 504)	One turtle basking on a log.
September	Snapping Turtle	Ruth Davenport	Rathbun Bay (east end)	Shell from dead turtle found. Identification by B. Bowles
