

Results of the 2022 Turtle Tally on Jack Lake



Steven J. Kerr
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Cover Photo: Blandings Turtle (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation photo).

Introduction

The Jack Lake area is known to support six different species of turtles. Members of the Jack Lake community have participated in the Ontario Turtle Tally since 2014 (see References). This report has been prepared to summarize observations recorded during 2022.

2022 Observations

Individual turtle sightings are listed in Appendix 1. As in previous years, most turtle observations occurred during June when turtles were moving to search for nesting sites and lay their eggs (Table 1). In several instances, turtles were moved off the road. In one instance (June 7), eggs were removed from a Blandings turtle, which had been killed on the road, and were taken to the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre in Peterborough for incubation.

Table 1. Temporal distribution of adult turtles observed during the 2022 Turtle Tally on Jack Lake.

Species	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Season Total
Blandings	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	9
Midland Painted	0	0	15	1	0	0	0	16
Snapping	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	8
Unidentified	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Monthly Total	0	1	32	1	0	0	0	34

Only four turtle nesting activities were observed in 2022 (Table 2).

Table 2. Observed turtle nesting activity observed during 2022 in the Jack Lake area.

Date	Species	Activity observed
June 10	Blandings	Nest digging
June 10	Snapping	Nest digging
June 17	Midland Painted	Egg laying
July 1	Midland Painted	Egg laying

For the first time, there were observations of young turtle hatchlings leaving their nest. On the morning of September 5, at least thirty snapping turtle hatchlings were observed (and photographed) leaving their nest on the south shore of Sheeps Island and entering Jack Lake (Mary Derks, pers. comm.)

Comparisons with Earlier Surveys

Compared with recent years, there were fewer participants and turtle observations in 2022 (Table 3).

Table 3. A comparative summary of turtle observations from Jack Lake, 2014-2022.

Year	No. Participants	Blandings	Eastern Musk	Midland Painted	Northern Map	Snapping	Spotted	Unidentified
2014	5	2	0	32	0	12	0	0
2015	6	3	0	58	0	20	0	0
2016	17	5	0	14	0	16	0	0
2017	31	6	0	60	2	21	0	0
2018	33	7	0	43	6	34	0	0
2019	30	11	1	51	4	17	1	0
2020	20	4	1	48	3	13	0	0
2021	40	6	0	64	0	22	0	0
2022	14	9	0	16	0	8	0	1
2014-2022 Mean	21.8	5.9	0.2	42.9	1.7	18.1	0.1	0.1

Acknowledgements

Individuals who participated in the 2022 turtle tally included (listed alphabetically): Heather Bee, Tim Cork, Ruth Davenport, Mary Derks, Alex Kostiw, Elizabeth Kroeker, David Lean, Colleen Louise, Marlo Loeb McQuaker, Marni McQuillan, Michael Mastroianni, Pat Phillips, Tina Porter and Alan Quarry.

References and Additional Reading

Kerr, Steven J. 2016. Turtle observations from the Jack Lake watershed, 2014-2016. Jack Lake Association. Apsley, Ontario. 2 p. + appendices.

Kerr, Steven J. 2017. 2017 turtle observations in the Jack Lake watershed. Jack Lake Association. Apsley, Ontario. 4 p. + appendices.

Kerr, Steven J. 2018. 2018 turtle observations from the Jack Lake watershed. Jack Lake Association. Apsley, Ontario. 3 p. + appendices.

Kerr, Steven J. 2019. 2019 turtle observations from the Jack Lake area. Jack Lake Association. Apsley, Ontario. 3 p. + appendices.

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

Kerr, Steven J. 2021. Results of the 2021 turtle tally on Jack Lake. Jack Lake Association. Apsley, Ontario. 2 p. + appendices.

Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre. 2022. How to build a turtle nesting site on your property. Peterborough, Ontario.

Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre. 2022. Nest protection – Improving the odds for eggs and hatchlings. Peterborough, Ontario.

Toronto Zoo. 2011. Turtles on your property – What to know and do. Adopt-a-Pond Wetland Conservation Programme. Toronto, Ontario. 11 p.

Toronto Zoo. Undated. Ontario turtle tally. Adopt-a-Pond Wetland Conservation Programme. Toronto, Ontario.

Appendix 1. Individual turtle observations recorded in the Jack Lake area during 2022.

Date	Turtle Species	Observer	Site/Location	Details
Early May	Snapping Turtle	Tim Cork	Centre Bay (north shore)	Very large specimen.
June 2	Midland Painted Turtle	David Lean	Hwy 504 (near McCoy Road)	Adult turtle. Photo taken.
June 5	Unidentified	Michael Mastroianni	McCoy Road	-
June 7	Midland Painted Turtle	Ruth Davenport	McCoy Road	Turtle moved off the road.
June 7	Blandings Turtle	Ruth Davenport	McCoy Road	Turtle had been killed on the road. A total of 8-10 eggs were removed and taken to the Ontario Turtle Trauma Centre in Peterborough.
June 8	Midland Painted Turtle	Tina Porter	Jack Lake Road (1 km past 4 corner stop sign)	Turtle was moved off the road.
June 8	Midland Painted Turtle	Tina Porter	Jack Lake Road (near Anchorage)	-
June 8	Snapping Turtle	Marlo Loeb McQuaker	Jack Lake Road	-
June 9	Snapping Turtle	Elizabeth Kroeker	Jack Lake Road	Large turtle which was moved off the road.
June 10	Snapping Turtle	Pat Phillips	Jack Lake Road	Photo taken.
June 10	Blandings Turtle	Marni McQuillan	McCoy Road	Turtle was digging nest. Photo taken.
June 10	Snapping Turtle	Marni McQuillan	McCoy Road	Turtle was digging nest. Photo taken.
June 12	Blandings Turtle	Heather Bee	Jack Lake Road	Turtle was moved off the road. Photo taken.

Date	Turtle Species	Observer	Site/Location	Details
June 12	Blandings Turtle	Heather Bee	Jack Lake Road	Photo taken.
June 13	Blandings Turtle	Alex Kostiw	Jack Lake Road	Turtle was moved off the road.
June 13	Blandings Turtle	Alex Kostiw	Jack Lake Road	Turtle was moved off the road.
June 14	Blandings Turtle	Alex Kostiw	Jack Lake Road	-
June 14	Blandings Turtle	Alex Kostiw	Jack Lake Road	-
June 14	Midland Painted Turtle	Alex Kostiw	Jack Lake Road (west of marinas)	Turtle moved off the road.
June 14	Midland Painted Turtle	Alex Kostiw	Jack Lake Road	Turtle moved off the road.
June 14	Midland Painted Turtle	Alan Quarry	Sharpe's Bay	Photo taken
June 14	Snapping Turtle	Alex Kostiw	Jack Lake Road (near Shady Lane)	Very large specimen.
June 15	Midland Painted Turtle	Alex Kostiw	Jack Lake Road	-
June 15	Midland Painted Turtle	Alex Kostiw	Jack Lake Road	-
June 15	Snapping Turtle	Alex Kostiw	Jack Lake Road (FR 52B)	Large specimen.
Mid June	Snapping Turtle	Colleen Louise	McCoy Road	Turtle was crossing the road.
June 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Centre Bay (north shore)	Approximately 8 inches in length.
June 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Centre Bay (north shore)	-
June 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Centre Bay wetland	Approximately 10 inches in length. Turtle was laying eggs.
June 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Jack Lake Road	Turtle was moved off the road.

Date	Turtle Species	Observer	Site/Location	Details
June 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Jack Lake Road	Approximately eight inches in length.
June 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	The Cranery	Approximately ten inches in length.
June 25	Blandings Turtle	Ruth Davenport	McCoy Road (FR 85)	Turtle was approximately 10 inches in length. Photo taken.
July 1	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Centre Bay	Turtle, approximately 12 inches in length, was laying eggs.
September 5	Snapping Turtle	Mary Derks	Sheeps Bay (south shore of Sheeps Island)	Approximately 30 hatchlings observed leaving their nest and entering the lake.
