

Turtle Observations in the Jack Lake area during 2023



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Cover Photo: Northern Map Turtle. *Graptemys geographica*. (Google photo)

Introduction

For the tenth consecutive season, residents and visitors of Jack Lake participated in the Ontario Turtle Tally. This report has been prepared to summarize observations which were reported during the 2023 season.

2023 Observations

Individual turtle sightings are listed in Appendix 1 and summarized in Table 1. As expected, the majority of the sightings were reported during the nesting season in May and June.

Table 1. Temporal distribution of adult turtles observed during the 2023 Turtle Tally on Jack Lake.

Species	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Season Total
Blandings	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	8
Northern Map	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	13
Midland Painted	10	24	14	23	6	3	0	80
Snapping	0	2	5	2	1	0	0	10
Unidentified	0	23	5	0	0	0	0	28
Monthly Total	10	63	31	25	7	3	0	137

Several turtle nesting activities were observed in 2023 (Table 2). All of the reported nesting activity occurred during the month of June.

Table 2. Observed turtle nesting activity observed during 2023 in the Jack Lake area.

Date	Species	Activity observed
June 2	Snapping Turtle	- Turtle laying eggs
June 9	Snapping Turtle	- Turtle laying eggs on side of road
Early June	Not identified	- Nesting activity in driveway by two different turtles
June 10	Snapping Turtle	- Turtle laying eggs on side of road
June 15	Not identified	- Turtle was laying eggs near lawn- most were predated by birds
June 25	Midland Painted Turtle	- Turtle was observed laying eggs

Release of Turtle Hatchlings

In late June-early July, five midland painted turtle hatchlings were released in a Jack Lake wetland. These eggs had been recovered from the parent turtle which had been killed on the Jack Lake road in 2022. The eggs were reared at the Ontario Turtle Conservation Center in Peterborough.

Turtle Mortality

Four dead turtles (3 midland painted and one unidentified) were reported during the 2023 season. All had been killed on the road. In five reported instances people stopped to assist moving turtles off the road.

Comparisons with Earlier Surveys

Turtle observations for the Jack Lake area over the past ten years are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. A comparative summary of turtle observations from Jack Lake, 2014-2023.

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
2023	30	8	0	80	13	10	0	28
2014-2023 Mean	22.6	6.1	0.2	46.6	2.8	17.3	0.1	2.9

Jack Lakers will be encouraged to report their turtle sightings again in 2024.

Acknowledgements

The thirty individuals who participated in the 2023 turtle tally included (listed alphabetically): Tash Alves, Jess Arnott, Pete Bettinson, Kim Belfry, Dan Carmichael, Frank Cirinna, Tim Cork, Ruth Davenport, Mary Derks, Jenn Dunkerley, Sue Eden, Tammy Forbes, Sandy Garvey, Matt Goheen, Hammond Haven, Sheelagh Hysenaj, Todd Hill, Andrew Kerr, Steven Kerr, Lynda Kit, Tracey Manne, Laura Maybee, Kristy Maguire, Mario McQuaker, Kathleen Mitchell, Gavin Muranaka, Christopher Saint, Kim Simich, Shelly Walton Small and John Trotter.

Naturalist Bob Bowles is thanked for confirming identification (from photographs) for many of the reported sightings.

Appendix 1. Individual turtle observations recorded in the Jack Lake area during 2023.

Date	Turtle Species	Location	Observer(s)	Details
April 14	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy Road wetland	Ruth Davenport	- Photo taken.
April 19	Midland Painted Turtle	Brooks Bay (northwest end)	Sheelagh Hysenaj	- Six turtles basking on a log.
April 29	Midland Painted Turtle	The Narrows	Tim Cork	- Two ten inch turtles were observed on a log.
April 29	Midland Painted Turtle	FR89	Tim Cork	- One eight inch turtle crossing the road.
May 7	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy Road wetland	Steven Kerr	- One small turtle on a log.
May 10	Midland Painted Turtle	FR85 wetland	Ruth Davenport	- Two turtles were observed. - Photo taken.
May 10	Northern Map Turtle	Jack Lake	Sandy Garvey	- Peterborough Field Naturalist observation.
May 11	Northern Map Turtle	"Idle Hour" bay	Ruth Davenport	- Three turtles were observed on a log. - Photo taken.
May 11	Northern Map Turtle	FR85 wetland	Ruth Davenport	- Nine turtles on a log. - Photo taken.
May 15	Midland Painted Turtle	FR50	Jess Arnott	- Two turtles were observed. - Photo taken.

Date	Turtle Species	Location	Observer(s)	Details
May 16	Midland Painted Turtle	Jack Lake road	Jenn Dunkerley	-
May 16	Midland Painted Turtle	Near Jack Lake Trailor Park	Sue Eden	- Nine turtles were observed.
May 16	Snapping Turtle	Brooks Bay	Jenn Dunkerley	- Large in size.
May 17	Unidentified Turtle Species	Jack Lake Road	Kim Simich	-
mid May	Unidentified Turtle Species	Not identified	Kathleen Mitchell	- Turtle was small in size.
May 21	Midland Painted Turtle	Crane Bay	Shelly Walton Small	- Six turtles were observed on a log. - Photo taken. - Identification confirmed by R. Bowles.
May 27	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy Road wetland	Steven Kerr	- Two turtles basking on a log.
May 29	Snapping Turtle	Narrows Point Road	Tracey Manne	- Small turtle which was moved off the road.
May 31	Midland Painted Turtle	Jack Lake Road	John Trotter	- Turtle was moved off the road. - Photos taken.
May	Blandings Turtle	FR87A	Dan Carmichael	- Turtle was moved off the road. - Photo taken.
May	Unidentified Turtle Species	FR85	Laura Maybee	-

Date	Turtle Species	Location	Observer(s)	Details
May	Unidentified Turtle Species	FR82	Mario McQuaker	- Approximately twenty turtles were observed basking on logs.
June 1	Midland Painted Turtle	FR89	Tracey Manne	- Turtle was moved off the road.
June 2	Snapping Turtle	FR89E	Kim Belfry	- Turtle was laying eggs. - Photo taken.
June 2	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy Road wetland	Steven Kerr	- Small specimen on a log.
July 3	Midland Painted Turtle	Center Bay	Tim Cork	- Two turtles were observed on a log.
June 3	Unidentified Turtle Species	Center Bay	Tim Cork	- One turtle observed.
June 4	Blandings Turtle	FR87	Tammy Forbes	- Photos taken.
June 4	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy Road wetland (south of PCGP sign)	Steven Kerr	- One turtle basking on a log.
June 4	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy Road wetland (north of PCCGP sign)	Steven Kerr	- Two turtles basking on a log.
Early June	Unidentified Turtle Species	Brooks Bay	Hammond Haven	- Two turtles nesting in driveway.
Early June	Midland Painted Turtles	Jack Lake Road	Christopher Saint	- Three different turtles were observed dead on the road.

Date	Turtle Species	Location	Observer(s)	Details
June 9	Snapping Turtle	Redmond Bay	Gavin Muranaka	- Photo taken.
June 9	Snapping Turtle	Jack Lake Road	Tammy Forbes	- Turtle was nesting on the side of the road. - Photos taken.
June 10	Snapping Turtle	McCoy Road (at PCGP sign)	Tash Alves	- Turtle nesting on side of the road. - Photo taken.
June 10	Midland Painted Turtle	McCoy Road (near Hwy. 504)	Tash Alves	- Photo taken.
June 10	Blandings Turtle	McCoy Road	Tash Alves	- Photo taken. - Identification confirmed by R. Bowles
June 15	Unidentified Turtle Species	Redmond Bay	Gavin Muranaka	- Turtle was laying eggs most of which were predated by birds.
June 16	Unidentified Turtle Species	McCoy Road (near the Y in road)	Andrew Kerr	- Turtle was dead on the road having been run over by a vehicle.
June 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Centre Bay	Tim Cork	- Photo taken.
June 17	Snapping Turtle	Centre Bay	Tim Cork	- Large turtle - Photo taken
June 20	Blandings Turtle	McCoy Road (near Y in road)	Frank Cirinna	- Photo was taken.

Date	Turtle Species	Location	Observer(s)	Details
June 20	Blandings Turtle	Jack Lake Road (2 km past the marinas)	Matt Goheen	- Turtle was assisted off the road.
June 20	Midland Painted Turtle	End of Redmond Bay	Todd Hill	-
June 23	Blandings Turtle	End of Redmond Bay	Todd Hill	- Photo taken.
June 24	Blandings Turtle	End of Redmond Bay	Todd Hill	-
June 25	Midland Painted Turtle	Northwest shore of Callahan Bay	Lynda Kit	- Turtle was nesting. - Protection was provided for the nest. - Photos taken.
June 27	Blandings Turtle	Bowers Bay	Pete Bettinson	- Photo taken.
July 2	Midland Painted Turtle	Brooks Bay (northwest end)	Sheelagh Hysenaj	- Twenty-two turtles were basking on logs in the bay.
July 9	Midland Painted Turtle	Bowers Bay	Pete Bettinson	-
July 13	Snapping Turtle	Brooks Bay (northwest end)	Sheelagh Hysenaj	- One large turtle observed while swimming.
July 23	Snapping Turtle	Centre Bay	Tim Cork	- Approximately 6 inches in length. - Photo taken.
August 6	Midland Painted Turtle	The Narrows (east shore wetland)	Kristy Maguire	- Photo taken.

Date	Turtle Species	Location	Observer(s)	Details
August 8	Midland Painted Turtle	Dam at the lake outlet	Tim Cork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four turtles (three were approximately 8 inches in length and one was approximately 12 inches in length) were observed.
August 19	Snapping Turtle	McCoy Road	Ruth Davenport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speciman was small (approximately 4.5 inches in length).
August 20	Midland Painted Turtle	Rathbun Bay (south shore)	Kristy Maguire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empty shell found on McCoy Road. - Photo taken. - Identification confirmed by R. Bowles.
September 3	Midland Painted Turtle	Sheep Island	Mary Derks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two turtle hatchlings were observed near nesting site but several egg shells were also observed. - Photos taken.
September 4	Midland Painted Turtle	Sheep Island	Mary Derks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Photo taken. - Small turtle which was taken to the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre due to a shell deformity.

