

# 2018 Turtle Observations from the Jack Lake Watershed



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Cover Photo: Snapping turtle on the move (Todd Hill photo).

## Introduction

There are four species of turtles in the Jack Lake watershed: Blandings turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), Midland painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta marginata*), Northern map turtle (*Graptemys geographica*) and the Snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*). All four species are designated as species at risk.

Records of turtles in the Jack Lake area have been recorded as early as 1987 (Table 1). Jack Lake volunteers have participated in the Ontario Turtle Tally since 2014.

Table 1. 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 (from Kerr 2016, 2017).

Year	# of Participants	Number of Specimens Observed			
		Blandings Turtle	Midland Painted Turtle	Northern Map Turtle	Snapping Turtle
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	5	2	32	-	12
2015	6	3	58	-	20
2016	17	5	14	-	16
2017	31	6	60	2	21
Summary	-	29	196	2	88

## 2018 Turtle Observations

Thirty-three individuals reported turtle sightings from the Jack Lake area in 2018. Ninety-one turtles, comprised of four different species, were reported (Table 2).

Table 2. A summary of results from the 2018 Jack Lake Turtle Tally.

No. of Participants	33
Number of Turtles Seen	
Blandings Turtle	7
Midland Painted Turtle	43
Northern Map Turtle	6
Snapping Turtle	34
Unknown	1

Most of the sightings were associated with movements and nesting activities in June (Table 3).

Table 3. Temporal distribution of 2018 turtle sightings in the Jack Lake area.

<b>Turtle Species</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September- November</b>	<b>Total</b>
Blandings	1	5	0	1	0	7
Midland Painted	4	36	1	1	1	43
Northern Map	0	0	2	4	0	6
Snapping	11	19	4	0	0	34
Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Summary</b>	<b>17</b> <b>(18.7%)</b>	<b>60</b> <b>(66.3%)</b>	<b>7</b> <b>(7.5%)</b>	<b>6</b> <b>(6.5%)</b>	<b>1</b> <b>(1.0%)</b>	<b>91</b> <b>(100.0%)</b>

## Acknowledgements

This summary represents the collective efforts of several volunteers. These volunteers (listed alphabetically) included: Daryl Aitken, Doug Allison, Tammy Bannock, Karen Burleigh-Kerr, Calvin Cannon, Tim Cork, Ruth Davenport, Mary Derks, Roy Forfar, Laura Francis, Rebecca Gardner, Dave Grieve, Tanya Gullison, Todd Hill, Sheelagh Hysenaj, Allan Kerr, Steven Kerr, Scott Leatherdale, Alan Leung, Denise McClanahan, Marni McQuillan, Russ Miller, Eileen Moulton, Adrienne Mugridge, Kimberley Currie-Murphy, Kimberley Murphy, Jim Perun, Caitlin Quarry, Sandy Reeves, Iain Stevens, Constance Strange, Stephanie Tuer and Shery Wasser.

## References and Literature Cited

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Ontario Nature Reptile and Amphibian Atlas.

<https://ontarionature.org/programs/citizen-science/reptile-amphibian-atlas/>

Ontario Turtle Conservation Center. <https://ontarioturtle.ca/get-involved/sightings>

Toronto Zoo Ontario Turtle Tally. [www.torontozoo.com/adapttapond/turtleally.asp](http://www.torontozoo.com/adapttapond/turtleally.asp)

**Appendix 1. Individual turtle observations recorded in the Jack Lake watershed during 2018.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Turtle Species</b>	<b>Observer(s)</b>	<b>Site/Location</b>	<b>Details</b>
May 15	Blandings turtle	Steven Kerr	Highway 504	Adult turtle moved off the road.
May 27	Snapping turtle	Denise McClanahan	Williams Bay (east side)	Small turtle (2 inches wide)
May 27	Snapping turtle	Ruth Davenport	McCoy road	Approximately 12 inches in length. Turtle was moved off the road.
May 28	Midland painted turtle	Dave Grieve	Small bay between Sharpe's and Hatton Bay	"Nice-sized" turtle on cottage driveway
May 31	Snapping turtle	Adrienne Mugridge	Shady Lane	-
May 31	Snapping turtle	Kalvin Cannon	Not identified	Large turtle was moved off the road.
May 31	Snapping turtle	Tim Cork	Center Bay (west side)	Large turtle laying eggs in cottage driveway.
May 28-June 1	Midland painted turtle	Todd Hill	Jack Lake road, Hwys 504 and 46	3 turtles observed.
May 28-June 3	Snapping turtle	Todd Hill	Jack Lake road, Hwys 504 and 46	6 turtles observed.
May 28-June 3	Unidentified	Todd Hill	Jack Lake road, Hwys 504 and 46	1 turtle observed
June 1	Midland painted turtle	Tim Cork	Center Bay	Two turtles "basking" on a log
June 1	Midland painted turtle	Tammy Bannock	McCoy Road wetland	Turtle was "basking" in the sun.
June 1	Midland painted turtle	Tammy Bannock	Rathbun Bay (south shore)	-
June 1	Snapping turtle	Tanya Gullison	Sharpe's Bay	Turtle laid eggs in cottage driveway
June 1	Snapping turtle	Marni McQuillan	McCoy road FR85A (just past FR85D)	-

Early June	Snapping turtle	Roy Forfar	Jack Lake road (at Jack Lake Landscaping)	Small (8 inch shell diameter) turtle moved off the road.
June 2	Snapping turtle	Eileen Moulton	Jack Lake road	Large turtle
June 2	Snapping turtle	Kimberley Currie-Murphy	Jack Lake road	-
June 2	Snapping turtle	Eileen Moulton	Narrows Point road	Turtle was moved off the road.
June 2	Midland painted turtle	Kimberley Currie-Murphy	Jack Lake road	-
June 2	Midland painted turtle	Tammy Bannock	McCoy road wetland	Turtle was basking in the sun.
June 2	Midland painted turtle	Jim Perun	Jack Lake road (150 m from marina stop sign)	One turtle observed.
June 3	Snapping turtle	Constance Strange	Jack Lake road	Turtle was on the side of the road. A photo was taken.
June 3	Snapping turtle	Rebecca Gardiner	Redmont Bay (bottom end)	Two turtles observed. Photo was taken.
June 5	Snapping turtle	Caitlin Quarry	Wolfe Island (Sharpe's Bay)	Turtle was observed swimming.
June 5	Midland painted turtle	Iain Stevens	Center Bay	Turtle was laying eggs.
June 8	Blandings turtle	Doug Allison	McCoy road (~ 2.5 km from Hwy 504)	Turtle was moved across the road.
June 9	Midland painted turtle	Tim Cork	Jack Lake road	Turtle was moved off the road.
June 9	Midland painted turtle	Tim Cork	Center Bay	On west side of property.
June 9	Midland painted turtle	Karen Burleigh-Kerr	Hwy. 504	Turtle was moved off the road.
June 9	Midland painted turtle	Karen Burleigh-Kerr	Hwy. 504	On edge of road
June 9	Midland painted turtle	Karen Burleigh-Kerr	McCoy Road (Turtle hill)	On edge of road.





June 9	Midland painted turtle	Karen Burleigh-Kerr	McCoy road	On edge of road.
June 9	Blandings turtle	Dave Grieve	Jack Lake road	-
June 9	Snapping turtle	Stephanie Tuer	FR85S	Turtle laying eggs.
June 9-10	Snapping turtle	Roy Forfar	Brooks Bay (Jack Lake Traylor Park at mouth of channel)	Small (10 inch) turtle swam by dock.
June 10	Midland painted turtle	Allan Kerr	McCoy road	Six turtles basking on log in small wetland.
June 10	Midland painted turtle	Tim Cork	Center Bay	Basking on log
June 10	Midland painted turtle	Doug Allison	McCoy road	-
June 10	Blandings turtle	Doug Allison	McCoy Road (at the Y)	-
June 10	Snapping turtle	Sandy Reeves	Redmond Bay	Youn (6 inches long) turtle - photo taken.
June 11	Midland painted turtle	Sherry Wasser	Narrows Point road (FR89)	Turtle was laying eggs.
June 11	Snapping turtle	Tanya Gullison	White Tail Drive (Fire pump-out pond)	Photo taken.
June 12	Blandings turtle	Alan Leung	Callahan Bay	Turtle was laying eggs - photos taken.
June 15	Midland painted turtle	Tim Cork	Griggs Island	Two turtles (~8 and 10 inches in length) observed. together on a log.
June 16	Blandings turtle	Kalvin Cannon	Near junction of Shady Lane and FR87	-
June 16	Midland painted turtle	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Brooks Bay (west end)	Five turtles observed
June 16	Snapping turtle	Mary Derks	Sheep Island	Turtle was also seen last year in same area.
June 16	Snapping turtle	Laura Francis	Island 16	-

June 16	Blandings turtle	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Brooks Bay (west end)	-
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June 17	Snapping turtle	Karen Burleigh-Kerr	Hwy. 504 (~ 1 mile north of McCoy road)	Turtle was in ditch
Late June	Snapping turtle	Tim Cork	Fire Route 89 (near Cork cottage in Center Bay)	Turtle was approximately 10 inches long.
Late June	Midland painted turtle	Tim Cork	Jack Lake road	Turtle was approximately 8 inches long).
Late June	Midland painted turtle	Tim Cork	Center Bay (in front of Cork cottage)	Four turtles sunning on a log.
Late June	Midland painted turtle	Tim Cork	Center Bay (near Lean cottage).	Turtle was approximately twelve inches long.
June (unspecified date)	Snapping turtle	Sandy Reeves	Redmond Bay	Small (6 inches) turtle. Photo was taken.
Early July	Northern map turtle	Russ Miller	Miller's Island (SE Redmond Bay)	Two turtles observed basking on a log. Photos were taken
July 1-2	Snapping turtle	Daryl Aitken	McCoy road	Turtle moved off the road.
July 1-2	Midland painted turtle	Daryl Aitken	McCoy road	Turtle moved off the road.
July 10	Snapping turtle	Ruth Davenport	Rathbun Bay (south shore)	Turtle observed swimming in water.
July 13	Snapping turtle	Daryl Aitken	East Bay (Spence Island)	Two turtles basking.
August 8	Northern map turtle	Russ Miller	Sheeps Bay (northeast)	Four turtles observed – photos taken.
August 12	Blandings turtle	Ruth Davenport	Rathbun Bay (south shore)	Photo taken./
August 18	Midland painted turtle	Steven Kerr	McCoy road wetland	Turtle was on log basking.
September 16	Midland painted turtle	Sarah Robertson	Jack Lake road	Turtle was moved off the road.

**Appendix 2. 2018 Turtle Observations from the Jack Lake area.**



Midland painted turtle (Kimberley Murphy photo)



Midland painted turtle laying eggs near Center Bay (Iain Stevens photo).





Sharpe's Bay snapping turtle (Tanya Gullison photo)



Redmond Bay snapping turtle (Rebecca Gardiner photo).



Blandings turtle observed on Jack Lake road (Dave Grieve photo).



Predated turtle nest on Center Bay (Iain Stevens photo).





Blandings turtle nesting in Callahan Bay (Alan Leung photos).





