

2019 Turtle Observations from the Jack Lake Area



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2019

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Cover photo: Eastern musk (stinkpot) turtle (Google photo)

Introduction

Efforts to record turtle observations in the Jack Lake area occurred as early as 1987. It was not until 2014, however, that more intensive efforts were coordinated to collect information on turtles in the Jack Lake area of Peterborough County (Table 1).

Table 1. Turtle Observations from the Jack Lake area (Square 17QK35), 1987-2018. Data was derived from the Ontario Herpetofaunal Survey supplemented by observations from volunteers of the Jack Lake Association (from Kerr 2016, 2017, 2018).

Number of Specimens Observed and Reported								
Year	# of Participants	Blandings Turtle	Eastern Musk Turtle	Midland Painted Turtle	Northern Map Turtle	Snapping Turtle	Spotted Turtle	Unidentified
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	-	-
2018	33	7	-	43	6	34	-	1
Total	Mean – 18.4 (N=5)-	36	0	239	8	122	0	1

2019 Turtle Observations

The spring of 2019 may generally be considered as late, cold and wet. The 2019 ice-out date was April 28. Although there were sightings of turtles as early as late April-early May, reports of increased turtle movements and activity were not documented until mid-late June (Table 2). Over the course of the 2019 season, sightings of 88 turtles were reported. The only observation of a turtle hatching occurred on September 15 when a young snapping turtle was observed in the Redmond Bay area.

Table 2. Temporal distribution of 2019 turtle sightings in the Jack Lake area.

Turtle Species	May	June	July	August	September-October	Total
Blandings	6	4	0	1	0	11
Eastern Musk Turtle	0	0	0	1	0	1
Midland Painted	5	12	5	29	0	51
Northern Map	0	2	2	0	0	4
Snapping	9	4	1	1	2	17
Spotted	1	0	0	0	0	1
Unknown	3	0	0	0	0	3
Summary	24	22	8	32	2	88

A total of 30 individuals participated in the 2019 program and reported observations of 88 turtles (Table 3).

Table 2. A summary of results from the 2019 Jack Lake Turtle Tally.

No. of Participants	30
<u>Number of Turtles Seen</u>	
Blandings Turtle	11
Eastern Musk Turtle	1
Midland Painted Turtle	51
Northern Map Turtle	4
Snapping Turtle	17
Spotted Turtle	1
Unknown	3
2019 Summary	88

The highlights of the 2019 program included the documentation of two new turtle species. A spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) rated as endangered in Canada, was photographed on May 26 near the north end of the lake. On August 4, the shell of an eastern musk (stinkpot) turtle (*Stenotherus odoratus*) was found. It is believed that these are the first records of these two turtles in the Jack Lake area.

Acknowledgements

This summary represents the collective efforts of numerous volunteers. These volunteers (listed alphabetically) include: Doug Allison, Val Alves, Karen Burleigh-Kerr, Frank Cirinna, Suzi Cork, Tim Cork, Ruth Davenport, Mary Derks, Garth Girvan, Sirpa Haikonen, Paul Heaven, Shceelagh Hysenaj, Steven Kerr, Ryan Kluake, Neill Lanz, David Lean, Vicki Lean, Denyze Martial, Mario Loeb-McQuaker, Russell Miller, Marilyn Moulton-Becker, Pat Richards, Ben Thornton, Paul Thornton, Ben Thornton, Matt Thornton, Arnold Tripp, Linda Tripp, Stephanie Tuer and Sherry Wasser.

Literature Cited

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

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

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

Appendix 1. Individual turtle observations recorded in the Jack Lake area during 2019.

Date	Turtle Species	Observer(s)	Site/Location	Details
April-May	Blandings Turtle	Paul Heaven	Northeast of Redmond bay	Two specimens were observed.
April-May	Midland Painted Turtle	Paul Heaven	Norththeast of Redmond Bay	-
May 5	Snapping Turtle	Beth Brook	Jack Lake Road	Very large adult.
May 5	Midland Painted Turtle	Ryan Kluake	Sucker Creek wetland.	Four turtles were observed.
May 5	Unidentified	Beth Brook	Jack Lake Road	-
May 6	Snapping Turtle	Frank Cirinna	McCoy Road	Large adult- photo was taken.
May 11	Unidentified	Mary Derks	Sheeps Island	Nest predated – photo was taken.
May 16	Blandings Turtle	Vicki Lean	McCoy Road	Photo was taken.
May 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	McCoy Road (first wetland in from Hwy 504)	Two turtles were basking on a log.
May 17	Unidentified	Linda and Arnold Tripp	Hwy 504 (south of Apsley)	-
May 18	Snapping Turtle	Neill Lanz and Denyze Martial	Jack Lake Road	Turtle was moved off the road.
May 18	Snapping Turtle	Val Alves	FR 85P (McCoy Bay)	Turtle was observed crossing a driveway.
May 19	Midland Painted Turtle	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Brooks Bay (southwest corner)	Three turtles were observed basking.
May 19	Blandings Turtle	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Brooks Bay (southwest corner)	Turtle was basking on a log.
May 19	Snapping Turtle	Matt and Ben Thornton	Hatton Bay (FR 51)	Turtle was approximately 12 inches in diameter.
May 20	Snapping Turtle	Beth Brook	Jack Lake Road (past FR 89 turnoff)	Photo was taken.

Date	Turtle Species	Observer(s)	Site/Location	Details
May 20	Snapping Turtle	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Jack Lake Road	Approximately 10 inches long. Turtle was moved off the road.
May 20	Blandings Turtle	Paul Thornton	Hatton Bay (FR 51)	Turtle was approximately 7 inches in diameter.
May	Snapping Turtle	Stephanie Tuer	Island 8	Nest had been predated.
May	Midland Painted Turtle	Mario McQuaker	Jack Lake Road	-
May 26	Blandings Turtle	Vicki Lean	McCoy Road	Photo was taken.
May 26	Spotted Turtle	Tim Cork	Jack Lake Road	Two photos were taken. ID by Bob Bowles Turtle was moved off the road.
May 30	Blandings Turtle	Ruth Davenport	McCoy Road (0.5 km from Hwy. 504)	Photos were taken.
June 7	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	McCoy Road (first wetland in from Hwy 504).	Large adult was basking on a log.
June 9	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr	McCoy Road (first wetland in from Hwy 504).	Turtle was basking on a log.
June 9	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Jack Lake Road	Turtle was taken off the road. Approximately eight inches in length Several photos were taken.
June 11	Midland Painted Turtle	Martha Moulton-Becker	Jack Lake Road	-
June 15	Northern Map Turtle	Russell Miller	Miller's Island (Redmond Bay)	Turtle was basking on a log.
June 16	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr	McCoy Road wetland	Turtle was basking on a log.

Date	Turtle Species	Observer(s)	Site/Location	Details
June 16	Midland Painted Turtle	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Bowers Bay (west end)	Turtle was basking on a log.
June 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Sherry Wasser	Driveway off FR89	Turtle was digging anest. Photos were taken.
June 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Mario Loeb-McQuaker	Jack Lake Road	Photo were taken.
June 21	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	McCoy Road (first wetland in from Hwy 504)	Turtle was moved off the road.
June 21	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	McCoy Road (small hil just before the "Y")	Turtle was crossing the road
June 21	Snapping Turtle	Stephanie Tuer	Williams Bay	Turtle nest observed on path (second year of nesting at this location).
June 21	Midland Painted Turtle	Kelly Arnott	Jack Lake Road (between marinas and FR50).	Video were aken.
June 22	Snapping Turtle	Suzi Cork	Center Bay (Cork property)	One single adult.was observed.
June 23	Northern Map Turtle	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	Miller's Island (Redmond Bay)	Large adult was basking on a log.
June 23	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	Highway 504 (midway between Apsley and McCoy Road)	Turtle was on the side of the road.
June 23	Blandings Turtle	David Lean	McCoy Road (near Y in road)	Photo were taken
June 23	Snapping Turtle	Kelly Arnott	Narrows Point Road	Turtle was crossing the road (video was taken).
June 23	Blandings Turtle	Ruth Davenport	Junction of FR 85 and FR 85A	Photo was taken.
June 24	Blandings Turtle	Davie Lean	McCoy Road (just past the "Y")	Photo was taken.

Date	Turtle Species	Observer(s)	Site/Location	Details
June 27	Snapping Turtle	Mary Derks	Sheeps Bay	Nest was predated. Photos were taken.
June 28	Blandings Turtle	Garth Girvan	McCoy Road (km 4)	Photos were taken.
June 30	Blandings Turtle	Ruth Davenport	Unreported	-
July 1	Midland Painted Turtle	Beth Brook	Jack Lake Road (entrance to FR50)	Photos were taken.
July 1	Midland Painted Turtle	Pat Richards	Jack Lake Road	Assisted off the road. Photos were taken
July 1	Snapping Turtle	Daryl Aitken	East Bay	Very large turtle.
July 11	Midland Painted Turtle	Pat Richards	Jack Lake Road	-
July 8	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	Hwy 504 (two different locations between Apsley and McCoy Road).	Both turtles were moved off the road.
July 21	Northern Map Turtle	Unrecorded	Greggs Island	Two turtles were basking on a log. Photo was taken.
August 4	Eastern Musk (Stinkpot) Turtle	Doug Allison	Redmond Bay (northeast)	Shell of dead turtle was found. Photos were taken ID by B. Bowles.
August 8	Snapping Turtle	Sirpa Haikonen	Callahan Bay	-
August 11	Midland Painted Turtle	Sheelagh Hysenaj	Brooks Bay (northwest)	25 turtles were observed basking on logs. Photo was taken.
August 11	Blandings Turtle	Sheeleagh Hysenaj	Brooks Bay (northwest)	Turtle was observed basking on a log.
August 19	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Center Bay	Four turtles were basking on a log.
September 15	Snapping Turtle	Frank Ciranna	Redmond Bay	Turtle hatchling was observed (photo was taken).
Mid September	Snapping Turtle	Neill Lanz	Williams Bay (Lanz cottage)	Large turtle was observed.

Appendix 2. Turtles photographed around Jack Lake during the 2019 season.



Spotted turtle on Jack Lake road (Tim Cork photos)





Blandings turtle on McCoy Road (0.5 km from Hwy 504 on May 30, 2019)
(Ruth Davenport photo).



Blandings Turtle on McCoy Road in late June, 2019 (David Lean photo).



Nesting Midland Painted Turtle. June 17, 2019 (Sherry Wasser photos)





Northern map turtles at the east end of Gregg's Island, July 2019 (Mary Long photo).



Snapping turtle hatching in mid September (Frank Cirinna photo).