

Results of the 2020 Turtle Tally on Jack Lake



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Introduction

There are 8 species of turtle in Ontario. Six of these species are found in the Jack Lake watershed (Table 1). All six of these species have been designated as species at risk.

Table 1. Federal and provincial designation of turtles in Ontario.

Species	Provincial Designation	Federal Designation
Blandings Turtle	Threatened	Endangered
Eastern Musk Turtle	Special Concern	Special Concern
Midland Painted Turtle	Not Listed	Special Concern
	(Yet to be Assessed)	
Northern Map Turtle	Special Concern	Special Concern
Snapping Turtle	Special Concern	Special Concern
Spotted Turtle	Endangered	Endangered

The first turtle observations from Jack Lake were recorded in 1987 (Table 2). In 2014, a more concerted effort was initiated to collect more information on turtle distribution and abundance in the Jack Lake area (see Kerr 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019).

Table 2. Turtle observations from the Jack Lake area, 1987- 2019.

Year	# of Participants	<u>Number of Specimens Observed and Reported</u>						
		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
2019	30	11	1	51	4	17	1	3

2020 Turtle Observations

A total of 70 individual turtles were reported during the 2020 season. The majority of turtle observations occurred during the nesting period in May and June (Table 3).

Table 3. Temporal distribution of 2020 turtle observations from the Jack Lake watershed.

Turtle Species	April	May	June	July	August	September- October	Total
Blandings Turtle	0	2	2	0	0	0	4
Eastern Musk Turtle	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Midland Painted Turtle	1	23	19	4	1	0	48
Northern Map Turtle	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Snapping Turtle	0	2	9	1	1	0	13
Spotted Turtle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
2020 Summary	1	31	31	5	2	0	70

The first turtle observation was reported on April 25. Perhaps one of the most significant observations in 2020 was a report of 18 midland painted turtles basking in the Centre Bay area on May 3. At least ten turtles were reportedly moved off a road in 2020.

Table 4. Highlights of the 2020 Jack Lake Turtle Tally.

<u>Number of Participants</u>	20
<u>Number of Turtles Observed</u>	
Blandings Turtle	4
Eastern Musk Turtle	1
Midland Painted Turtle	48
Northern Map Turtle	3
Snapping Turtle	13
Spotted Turtle	0
Unknown	1
2020 Summary	70

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References

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

<https://www.jacklakeassociation.ca/assets/conservation/2014-2016%20Turtle%20Observations%20in%20the%20Jack%20Lake%20Area%20%28Final%29.pdf>

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<https://www.jackslakeassociation.ca/assets/key%20Documents/2017%20Turtle%20Observations%20in%20the%20Jack%20Lake%20Watershed.pdf>

Kerr, S. J. 2018. 2018 turtle observations from the Jack Lake watershed. Report prepared for the Jack Lake Association. Apsley, Ontario. 3 p. + appendices.

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Websites

<https://ontarioturtle.ca/>

<https://cottagelife.com/outdoors/how-to-identify-ontarios-8-species-of-turtles/>

<https://animals.mom.me/kinds-turtles-live-canada-10423.html>

Appendix 1. Individual turtle observations recorded in the Jack Lake area during 2020.

Date	Turtle Species	Observer(s)	Site/Location	Details
April 25	Midland Painted Turtle	Ruth Davenport	End of East Bay	Turtle basking on a log. Photo taken.
May 3	Midland Painted Turtle	Ralph Dunham	Pond off Centre Bay	Eighteen turtles observed basking on logs. Photos taken.
May 11	Blandings Turtle	Alex Kostiw	Jack Lake Road	Turtle was moved off the road.
May 15	Eastern Musk Turtle	Todd Hill	Hwy 28 (near Apsley)	Approximately ten inches in length.
Mid May	Snapping Turtle	Alex Kostiw	Jack Lake Road	Turtle was moved off the road.
May 16	Snapping Turtle	Rob Johnson	Dam at the outlet	Photos taken.
May 17	Midland Painted Turtle	Ruth Davenport	Griggs Island	Four turtles on a log. Photos taken.
May 17	Northern Map Turtle	Ruth Davenport	Griggs Island	Two turtles on a log. Photo taken.
May 18	Blandings Turtle	Sam McKenzie	McCoy Road (near Hwy 504)	Photos taken.
May 23	Northern Map Turtle	Ruth Davenport	Sharpe's Bay	Photo taken.
Late May	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Centre Bay (west)	One ten inch long turtle on the driveway.
Early June	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	FR89	One six inch turtle moved off the road. One eight inch turtle moved off the road (different site).
June 9	Blandings Turtle	Mary Derks	Sheeps Island	Turtle laid eggs on lawn in the morning.
June 9	Midland Painted Turtle	Ruth Davenport	McCoy Road	Approximately 4 inches in length.
June 9	Midland Painted Turtle	Heather Bee	Jack Lake Road	Turtle was moved off the road.
June 9	Midland Painted Turtle	Heather Bee	FR50	Two turtles observed.

Date	Turtle Species	Observer(s)	Site/Location	Details
June 9	Midland Painted Turtle	Heather Bee	Hatton Bay wetland	-
June 11	Snapping Turtle	Kristy Maguire	Not reported	Turtle was in the water. Photo taken.
June 11	Midland Painted Turtle	Kristy Maguirre	McCoy Road (FR85A)	-
June 11	Midland Painted Turtle	Kristy Maguire	McCoy Road (FR85)	-
June 11	Snapping Turtle	Kristy Maguire	McCoy Road (FR85)	-
June 12	Midland Painted Turtle	Kristy Maguire	Not reported	Photo taken.
June 12	Snapping Turtle	Kristy Maguire	Not reported	Photo taken.
June 14	Blandings Turtle	Karen and Steven Kerr	McCoy Road (near Hwy 504)	Large specimen was moved off the road.
June 14	Midland Painted Turtle	Gerald Blackstock	FR50	Photo taken.
June 14	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Centre Bay (west)	Turtle was observed laying eggs on the driveway. Approximately 6 inches in length.
Mid June	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	FR89	Two nine inch long turtles moved off the road (at different sites)
Mid June	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Centre Bay (west)	One eight inch turtle observed in the water off the dock.
June 17	Snapping Turtle	Shellie Baltman	Jack Lake Road (near Jack Lake Lodge)	Turtle was laying eggs. Photo taken.
June 17	Snapping Turtle	Mary Derks	Sheeps Bay	Turtle was laying eggs. Photo taken.
June 18	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Small bay at the Narrows	Approximately eight inches in length.

Date	Turtle Species	Observer(s)	Site/Location	Details
June 22	Snapping Turtle	Paul Campbell	Sheeps Bay	Nesting on volleyball court. Photo taken.
June 21	Snapping Turtle	Daryl Aitken	East Bay (north shore)	Large specimen.
June 21	Snapping Turtle	Mike Jensen	Williams Bay (Island 7)	Turtle was observed in the water near the dock.
June 23	Midland Painted Turtle	Mary Derks	Sheeps Bay	Photo taken.
June 26	Midland Painted Turtle	Tim Cork	Narrows	Two turtles, each approximately 8 inches in length, on a log.
June 30	Unidentified	Selena Leger	McCoy Road wetland.	Turtle basking on a log.
June 30	Snapping Turtle	Steven Kerr and Karen Burleigh-Kerr	Rathbun Bay (north shore)	Large specimen in water at dock.
Early July	Midland Painted Turtle	Susan Quarry	Sharpe's Bay	Three turtles observed basking.
July 1	Snapping Turtle	Selena Leger	McCoy Road	Small turtle moved off the road.
July 30	Midland Painted Turtle	Mario Loeb	Sharpe's Bay	Small turtle.
August 20	Snapping Turtle	Allan Kerr	Rathbun Bay (north shore)	Large specimen in water at dock.
August 23	Midland Painted Turtle	Steven Kerr	Hwy 504 (near McCoy Road turnoff)	Turtle was moved off the road.
