Results of the 2022 Turtle Tally on Jack Lake

By Steven J. Kerr.



Figure Blanding's Turtle, (New York State, Dept. f Environmental Conservation photo

Suggested citation: Kerr, S. J. 2022. Results of the 2022 Turtle Tally on Jack Lake. Jack Lake Association. Apsley, Ontario. 3 p. + appendices

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 sitings 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 | Blanding’s | 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.