



Blanding's Turtle

Tortue mouchetée

Nipissing Ojibway: m'kinok

The Blanding's Turtle is classed as threatened in Ontario. In fact, all turtle species in Ontario are species at risk due to the destruction of their habitat from draining wetlands, road networks that cross turtle habitat and trapping for the pet trade. The Blanding's Turtle is a medium-sized turtle with a distinctive bright yellow throat and chin.

The Blanding's Turtle will travel on dry land during the breeding season and may be many dozens of metres away from their home ponds. Drive carefully near wetlands when turtle's including the Blanding's Turtle are looking for mates and nesting sites. The Blanding's Turtle will nest along the sandy or gravelly shoulders of roads that they use to build a nest (a shallow hole) and lay its eggs that are covered with a small amount of sand. Unfortunately, these nests located on sites that are habitat traps, they are easily found by dogs, cats, raccoons, and foxes, and all the eggs eaten. In LWCA we have had some successful hatching of turtle eggs as predation is lower. Please keep your dogs on a leash in the Woods as your dog can easily sniff out the eggs or turtle hatchlings.