



Conserving Carolinian Reptiles Project Turtle Identification Factsheet

The Long Point area has a rich diversity of reptiles which includes 7 species of turtles and 12 species of snakes. Unfortunately, more than half of these are now listed as species at risk and there is concern locally, nationally and internationally about the future of many reptile species.

Turtles depicted here are native species known to occur in the Long Point Basin area of southern Ontario. This region includes all of Norfolk County, plus parts of Elgin, Oxford, Brant and Haldimand Counties.

Long Point Basin Land Trust is working with partners to help gain a better understanding of the distribution and population of our turtles and snakes. You can help contribute to this research by reporting your reptile sightings. This will help to develop conservation strategies to protect and restore reptile populations and their habitats. You can submit observations online at:

longpointlandtrust.ca – or by email, mail or phone.

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◀ Spotted Turtle *Clemmys guttata*

Size: to 12 cm (5")
 Appearance: black with round yellowish dots on upper shell and limbs
 Habitat: small, shallow water bodies, such as ponds and marshes
 Notes: seldom seen in summer; more frequently observed in spring
 Status: endangered

Blanding's Turtle *Emydoidea blandingii* ▶

Size: to 25 cm (10")
 Appearance: upper shell smooth, domed, and dark grey/black with faint yellow marks; bright yellow throat and chin
 Habitat: shallow water of marshes, lakes, ponds, sometimes land
 Notes: may bask on logs; frequent shallow water
 Status: threatened



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◀ Eastern Musk Turtle *Sternotherus odoratus*

Size: to 12 cm (5")
 Appearance: upper shell narrow, domed, brown or blackish; light-coloured stripes on head
 Habitat: shallow water of marshes, lakes, slow rivers
 Notes: seldom leave water; seldom seen; also called Stinkpot
 Status: threatened

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◀ Spiny Softshell *Apalone spinifera*

Size: females to 50 cm (20"); males to 24 cm (10")
Appearance: upper shell leathery, flat and greyish/brownish; males and young with yellowish spots; long neck, pointed snout
Habitat: lakes and larger rivers
Notes: strong swimmers; agile on land
Status: threatened

Northern Map Turtle *Graptemys geographica* ▶

Size: females to 27 cm (11"); males to 13 cm (5")
Appearance: upper shell dark green with yellowish lines, shell ridged with serrations at rear; head/limbs striped
Habitat: large water bodies, such as lakes and rivers
Notes: frequently bask on logs, rocks and shorelines
Status: special concern



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◀ Snapping Turtle *Chelydra serpentina*

Size: to 50 cm (20")
Appearance: upper shell brownish, with 3 longitudinal ridges, serrated at rear; long neck and tail
Habitat: generally in larger water bodies, sometimes small ponds
Notes: seldom basks on land; will attempt to bite if disturbed on land
Status: special concern

Midland Painted Turtle *Chrysemys picta marginata* ▶

Size: to 15 cm (6")
Appearance: upper shell dark green to black with yellow, orange or red lines; striped head and neck
Habitat: fairly common in ponds, lakes and wetlands
Notes: most commonly observed Ontario turtle; frequently basks on logs or rocks



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Long Point Basin Land Trust expresses its sincere thanks to Joe Crowley and Scott Gillingwater for permission to reproduce their photographs. The Long Point Basin Land Trust thanks the following funders for their support of this project: Fred Eaglesmith's Annual Charity Picnic, The Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, HIVA Environmental Fund, The John and Pat McCutcheon Charitable Foundation, The McLean Foundation, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Species at Risk Stewardship Fund and individual donors.

Long Point Basin Land Trust protects important natural habitats in the central Carolinian Region in southern Ontario. It promotes conservation through outreach, research, habitat restoration, and species at risk recovery projects. For more information about this charitable conservation organization, please visit our website or sign up for our newsletter (print or e-news).

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Notes: lengths approximate; conservation status per Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada 2010 (www.cosewic.gc.ca); prepared by Long Point Basin Land Trust, 2011.



Assistance for this project was provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources

