

Exemple de résumé / Sample abstract

HABITAT SELECTION AND HOME RANGE SIZE OF BLANDING'S TURTLE
(*Emydoidea blandingii*) NEAR THE SPECIES NORTHERN RANGE LIMIT

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Understanding habitat selection by Species at Risk is critical for effective conservation and management plans. In Canada, the majority of Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) live north of the Great Lakes and populations in this region have been designated Threatened by COSEWIC, yet there have been no studies on the species in this region. Studies in other areas have produced a basic understanding of habitat use by Blanding's turtle, although most studies have focused on life-history traits, home range sizes and movement patterns. Our study used radio telemetry to obtain preliminary data on movements and habitat use of adult Blanding's turtles near the northern limit of the species range. Habitat was characterized into 5 types; pond, stream/oxbow pool, sphagnum marsh, stream delta and sedge meadow. Since a large portion of an individual's home range is available at any point in time, we compare the percentage of radio locations within each habitat category to the percentage of land cover each habitat constituted in the study area. Home range size calculated using the Minimum Convex Polygon Method is compared to sizes reported for other locations. This information will provide a basis for future investigations into microhabitat selection and will help develop predictive models based on habitat structure (water depth, vegetation stratification and species present, water temperature, substrate depth, etc.). The overall goal of our study is to characterize the critical habitat requirements of Blanding's turtles so that effective recovery plans can be implemented for this Species at Risk.