

# Blanding's TURTLE



## BLANDING'S TURTLE

Scientific Name: *Emydoidea blandingii*

Range: In Ontario, southern and central portions

The Blanding's Turtle is Threatened in Ontario. Threats to this species include being killed on roadways, habitat destruction and collection for the pet trade. Raccoons and skunks often eat the eggs of these turtles. Blanding's Turtles are usually 15 years old or more before they nest.

## HABITAT

This medium-sized turtle likes to live in shallow wetland areas with ample vegetation. The Blanding's Turtle may walk up to 7 km in a season to look for a mate or nesting site. This makes it especially vulnerable to being killed on the road.

## APPEARANCE

The Blanding's Turtle can be easily identified by its yellow throat and jaw. It has a smooth, domed shell that many people say looks like a military helmet.

## FOOD

These turtles eat many types of small fish and tadpoles. They also like several invertebrates such as insects and crayfish. They eat very little plant matter.

## PROTECTION

Under Ontario's Endangered Species Act 2007, the Blanding's Turtle is protected from any actions that may cause further harm to the species. It is also protected under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.