

# Queen’s University Biological Station Species List: Reptiles

The current list has been compiled by Dr. Ivy Schoepf, [QUBS Research Coordinator](#), in 2018 and includes data gathered by direct observation, collected by researchers at the station and/or assembled using digital distribution maps. The list is based on a previous list created by [Prof. Gabriel Blouin-Demers](#) and [QUBS director Prof. Stephen C. Lougheed](#), and has been updated using resources from [The Natural Heritage Information Centre](#) (April 2018); [The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#) (February 2018) and [iNaturalist](#). Contact [Ivy](#) to report any errors, omissions and/or new sightings.

Based on the aforementioned criteria we can expect to find a total of 17 species of reptiles (class: Reptilia) present at QUBS. Two species, which historically occurred in the area, but have been extirpated (*e*), have also been included in the list for completeness. Species are reported using their full taxonomy; common name and status, based on whether the species is of global or provincial concern (see Table 1 for details). All species are considered QUBS residents unless otherwise stated.



**Figure 1.** QUBS protect a healthy population of the vulnerable Western Ratsnake (*Pantherophis obsoletus*). Researchers from [Prof. Stephen C. Lougheed](#)’s lab from Queen’s University are researching effective roadside mitigation strategies to reduce Ratsnakes’ mortalities. Photo courtesy of [Dr. Grég Bulté](#).

**Table 1. Status classification reported for the reptiles of QUBS.** Global status based on IUCN Red List of Threatened Species rankings. Provincial status based on Ontario Natural Heritage Information Centre SRank.

Global Status	Provincial Status
<b>Extinct (EX)</b>	<b>Presumed Extirpated (SX)</b>
<b>Extinct in the Wild (EW)</b>	<b>Possibly Extirpated (SH)</b>
<b>Critically Endangered (CR)</b>	<b>Critically Imperiled (S1)</b>
<b>Endangered (EN)</b>	<b>Imperiled (S2)</b>
<b>Vulnerable (Vu)</b>	<b>Vulnerable (S3)</b>
Near Threatened (NT)	Apparently Secure (S4)
Least Concern (LC)	Secure (S5)
Data Deficient (DD)	Unrankable - insufficient information (SU)
Not Evaluated (NE)	Unranked - not yet assessed (SNR)
	Conservation Status Rank Not Applicable (SNA)



**Figure 2.** Snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) are common on QUBS properties and have been studied for years by researchers associated with [Prof. Gabriel Blouin-Demers](#)’ lab from the University of Ottawa. Because snapping turtles range across the same habitat, are more abundant and easier to detect, researchers from this lab has suggested that they might be a good umbrella species for the endangered Blanding’s turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*) in Ontario. Photo courtesy of [Dr. Ivana Schoepf](#).

Order	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Status	Provincial Status
Squamata	Colubridae	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	Ring-necked Snake	LC	S4
		<i>Lampropeltis micropholis</i>	Eastern Milksnake	LC	S4
		<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>	Smooth Green Snake	LC	S4
		<i>Pantherophis obsoletus</i>	Western Ratsnake	LC	S3
		<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Common Gartersnake	LC	S5
	Natricidae	<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>	Lake Erie Water Snake	LC	S5
		<i>Storeria dekayi</i>	Brown Snake	LC	S5
		<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>	Red-bellied Snake	LC	S5
		<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>	Eastern Ribbon Snake	LC	S4
	Scincidae	<i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i>	Common Five-lined Skink	LC	S3
Viperidae	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Timber Rattlesnake (e)	LC	SX	
Testudines	Chelydridae	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Snapping Turtle	LC	S3
	Emydidae	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Painted Turtle	LC	S4
		<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle	EN	S3
		<i>Graptemys geographica</i>	Northern Map Turtle	LC	S3
		<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle (e)	Vu	SX
	Kinosternidae	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	Eastern Musk Turtle	LC	S3