

News and Comment

RENEW. 2004. Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Annual Report (14)

Contents (36 pages): Highlights of 2003-2004 [Of 160 Endangered, 108 Threatened, and 21 Extirpated species on the November 2003 COSEWIC list: 206 species are wholly or partially covered by recovery plans (completed or in development); 117 species are included in ecosystem or multispecies recovery, to the extent that their range overlaps with the geographic area; 53 show stable or increasing population trend. \$30.7 million was expended on recovery (salaries + expenses); Employment was equivalent to about 142 salaried and 23 volunteer people working full-time; 258 organizations made financial contributions; 348 organizations participated on recovery teams] – Report from the Co-Chairs – Figures [4] – Species

Recovery – Responsible Jurisdictions – Financial Contributors – Funding per Target – Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee [contacts for species at risk]. The report was produced by the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada in cooperation with the provinces, territories, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada Agency, Wildlife Management Boards and many individuals and non-government groups. Readers are cautioned (inside front cover): “This information is carefully reviewed but the Canadian Wildlife Service disclaims responsibility for the accuracy of the information contributed”.

Calendar: Endangered Reptiles of Canada 2004 and 2005

For 2004, 12 (one for each month) striking black-and-white drawings by various artists portray five turtles, 1 lizard and seven snakes whose surviving Canadian populations are designated as Endangered (Blue Racer), Threatened (Black Ratsnake, Eastern Foxsnake, Stinkpot, Eastern Ribbonsnake [Nova Scotia population], Blanding's Turtle [Nova Scotia population], Eastern Massasauga), Special Concern (Wood Turtle, Five-lined Skink, Eastern Ribbonsnake [Ontario populations], Eastern Milksnake, Spotted Turtle), or Under Review (Prairie Rattlesnake, Blanding's Turtle [Quebec, Ontario] populations). For each species there are brief remarks on appearance, occurrence, habitat and risks to its survival. A 13th species, the Pacific Pond Turtle is featured on the cover as designated “extirpated” despite the lack of credible records that native populations ever existed in Canada with the speculative remark “There is no biogeographic basis for the Pacific pond turtle's range not to have extended in Canada, so current efforts to rebuild populations in Washington State may result in the return of the Pacific pond turtle to southwestern British Columbia”. The fine artwork was contributed by Joe Crowley (3), Kathryn Peiman (3), Mandi Eldridge (2), Kevin Kerr (2), Sonya Amin, Marisa Bonofiglio, and Sarah Ingwerson.

In the 2005 version the black-and-white art is replaced by colour photography. The cover head of Western Rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus*) from British Columbia [sic] is followed by 7 snakes, 6 freshwater turtles, and one lizard each opposite a monthly calendar page covering December 2004 to December 2005. Each has additional cameo shots of the same species and a paragraph that highlights its status and characteristics.

Canadian Species at Risk November 2004

The latest version of the booklet *Canadian Species at Risk* prepared after the November 2004 COSEWIC assessment meeting is available on-line in both PDF and HTML formats

Species represented are Eastern Ratsnake (*Elaphe obsoleta*) [= Western Ratsnake *Elaphe spiloides* of one recent study], Eastern Foxsnake (*Elaphe gloydi*) [= *Elaphe vulpina gloydi*], Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*), Spiny Softshell *Apalone spinifera*, Stinkpot (*Sternotherous odoratus*), Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), Eastern Hog-nosed Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*), Five-lined Skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*), Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingi*), Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), Racers (*Coluber constrictor*: 3 subspecies), Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), Great Basin Gopher Snake (*Pituophis catenifer deserticola*). The back of the calendar features 3 species supposedly extirpated from Canada: Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) and Pacific Pond Turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*). Not mentioned is that the latter two were likely introductions to Canada. Two other forms are not illustrated but listed: Pacific Gophersnake (*Pituophis catenifer catenifer*) and Pigmy Short-horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma douglasii*).

These calendars have been produced by “the Brooks lab” at the Department of Zoology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1 Canada; (519) 824-4120 extension 58360; e-mail brookslab@hotmail.com. The selections for both calendars are based on the latest status designations by the reptile subcommittee (for which Brooks in chair) of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife (COSEWIC). See website: www.cosewic.gc.ca. All proceeds from sale of calendars goes to support the Kawartha Turtle Trama Centre in Peterborough, Ontario, established in 2002 to treat injured native turtles and release them back in the wild (website: www.kawarthaturtle.org) and reptile conservation research.

on the web site <http://www.cosewic.qc.ca/eng/sct5/indexe.cfm>

Paper format of this publication will now be available only once a year, following the spring assessment meeting.

Froglog: Newsletter of the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force (65, 66)

Number 65 (Focus on Australia), October 2004. Contents: DAPTF Seed Grants 2005 – The Impact of Habitat Modification on the Striped Marsh Frog *Limnodynastes peronii* (Amy Gye) – Conservation Status of Australian Frogs (Jean-Marc Hero, Care Morrison, Graeme Gillespie, Dale Roberts, Paul Horner, David Newell, Ed Meyer, Keith McDonald, Frank Lemckert, Michhhhael Mahony, Michael Tyler, Will Osborne, Harry Hines, Steve Richards, Conrad Hoskin, Naomi Doak and Luke Shoo) – New Funds available from the DAPTF (Tim Halliday) – Alaska Conference Summary (Deborah Rudis – Froglog Shorts).

Number 66, December 2004. Contents: New Funds available from the DAPTF (Tim Halliday & Don Church) – U.S. Cricket Frog Symposium (Michael Lannoo and Ralph Grundel) – Press Release: Sunburt Frogs a Myth: Pond Scum offers Natural Sunscreen (Larry Licht) – Global Amphibian Assessment (Simon Stuart, Janice Chanson, Neil Cox and Bruce Young) – *Atelopus mucubajensis* still survives in Andes of Venezuela. Preliminary Report (Cesar L. Barrio-Ammmmoros,

Fundacion Andigenna – The *Atelopus* Initiative: Conserving Endangered Tropical Andean Amphibians (Ariadne Angulo, Paul Salaman and Jose Vicente Rodriguez – Book Reviews – Froglog Shorts).

Froglog is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force of The World Conservation Union (IUCN)/Species Survival Commission (SSC) and is supported by The Open University, The World Congress of Herpetology, and Arizona State University. These issues were edited by John Wilkinson and Jeanne McKay (65) and Jeanne McKay (66), Department of Biological Sciences, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, United Kingdom; e-mail: daptf@open.ac.uk. Funding for *Froglog* is underwritten by the Detroit Zoological Institute, P. O. Box 39, Royal Oak, Michigan 48068-0039, USA. Publication is also supported by Peace Frogs www.peacefrogs.com and by RANA and the US National Science Foundation grants DEB-0130273.

The Boreal Dip Net/L'Epuisette Boreale: Newsletter of the Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Network/Reseau Canadien de Conservation des Amphibiens et des Reptiles 9(1) December 2004

Editor's Note – Thank You from the Meeting Organizer – Overview of the Annual Meeting [Edmonton, Alberta, 24-27 September 2004] – 2004 Silver Salamander Award Winners [Laura Frits, Steve Brechtel] – 2004 Best Student Presentation [Connie Browne] – Meeting Field Trip: Tyrrell Museum and Reptile World – Meeting Field Trip: Garter Snake Dens

– List of Presentations titles at 2004 Annual Meeting – Attendees of the 2004 Annual Meeting [55]. – Membership in CARCNET/RECCAR (contact Bruce Pauli, Canadian Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Research Centre, Carleton University, Raven Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3. Web site: <http://www.carcnet.ca/>).

Marine Turtle Newsletter (106)

October 2004. 28 pages: EDITORIAL Conceptual Problems with the ICUN Red Listing Assessment for the Green Turtle: Move Over Raine Island – GUEST EDITORIAL: Sea Turtles, Red Listing, and the Need for Regional Assessments – ARTICLES: The Trade of Marine Turtles in the Toliara region, Souty West Madagascar – NOTES: Rat Eradication as Part of a Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) Conservation Programme in Indonesia – Fibropapillomatosis and Multiple Fibromas in a Green Turtle from the South Coast of Pernambuco State, Brazil – First Record of a Leatherback Turtle in Syria – MEETING REPORTS – IUCNMTSG UPDATE – ANNOUNCEMENTS – NEWS &

LEGAL BRIEFS – RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Marine Turtle Newsletter is edited by Brendan J. Godley and Annette C. Broderick, Marine Turtle Research Group, Centre for Ecology and Conservation, University of Exeter in Cornwall, Tremough Campus, Penryn TR10 9EZ United Kingdom; e-mail MTN@seaturtle.org; Fax +44 1392 263700. Subscriptions and donations towards the production of the MTN can be made online at <<http://www.seaturtle.org/mtn/>> or postal mail to Michael Coyne (online Editor) Marine Turtle Newsletter, 1 Southampton Place, Durham, North Carolina 27705 USA (e-mail: mcoyne@seaturtle.org).

WARS 1983-2002 Special Annual Report Wildlife Accident Reporting and Mitigation

The British Columbia Ministry of Transportation has published as a CD this report on the Wildlife Accident Reporting System (WARS) which describes its work and achievements of the last 20 years as one of the pioneers and leaders in wildlife accident reporting and mitigation.

The WARS system in used in British Columbia to:

- 1) quantify the magnitude of wildlife-related vehicle collisions by species
- 2) identify accident-prone locations and accident trends
- 3) direct accident mitigation efforts (such as wildlife exclusion fencing and wildlife crossing structures) to problem locations
- 4) evaluate the effectiveness of accident risk profiles for highway corridors

- 5) develop species-specific accident risk profiles for highway corridors
- 6) advance mitigation efforts to protect rare and endangered species
- 7) establish policies and strategies for accident issues and mitigation initiatives

Copies of the CD can be obtained from Leonard Sielecki, R. P. Bio, MCIP, Engineering Branch, Environmental Management, British Columbia Ministry of Transportation, P.O. Box 9850, Station Provincial Government, Victoria British Columbia V8W 9T5 [location address: 4B – 940 Blanshard Street, Victoria] e-mail: leonard.sielecki@gems9.gov.bc.ca; telephone (250) 356-2255.