

Reptiles at risk: the common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) and Eastern ribbonsnake (*Thamnophis sauritus*)

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Coastal Action is now in its second year of conducting surveys for two at-risk reptile species in the province; the common snapping turtle (Vulnerable) and Eastern ribbonsnake (Threatened). This work is being done to increase local population data, facilitate stewardship and restoration, and educate and engage citizens in conserving species at risk in southwestern Nova Scotia. The data is captured through turtle trapping, nest monitoring, trail cameras, and visual surveys for Eastern ribbonsnakes. These activities are focused on the Petite Rivière watershed, specifically Milipsigate, Minamkeak, Hebb and Fancy lakes, associated channels, streams, and wetlands. The results of this project will help to assist the conservation and recovery planning of these species while also delivering outreach and education on species at risk in general and the ecosystem health of Lunenburg County.

Keywords: Snapping turtle, Eastern ribbonsnake, species at risk, conservation

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