



<b>STATUS</b>	Endangered
	Endangered

**ADULT SHELL:** 18-25 cm long.  
**DESCRIPTION:** Long neck with bright yellow throat and high-domed top shell (carapace) that is grey to black with yellow flecks. The flecks are typically brighter in younger turtles and most visible when the shell is wet. The lower shell (plastron) is orange-yellow with irregular black patches.

**HATCHLINGS:** Toonie-sized with pale yellow throats, long thin tails and a solid grey upper shell. Their lower shell is yellow with a central black blotch.

**NOTES:** There are likely no more than 350 adults in NS. Only 3 sizable populations are known in the province.



Blanding's turtle © COLIN GRAY

**Habitat:**

Vegetated freshwater wetlands, lake shorelines and shallow coves. They may nest considerable distances from water.

**Similar Species:** There are three other species of freshwater turtles in NS. Painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) are smaller with flatter shells, red markings on shell and limbs and yellow stripes on neck. Wood turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*) are a similar size and have a rough grey-brown shell and red-orange armpits and throats. Snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) are larger (up to 60 cm shell length) with a grey-brown shell that is jagged at the back, large head, and spiked tail.

**Interesting point:** Blanding's turtles don't mature until they are approximately 20 years old and they can live for over 70 years!



© JEFFIE MCNEIL



Hatchling © MEGAN CROWLEY



Painted turtle © JEFFIE MCNEIL



Radio tracking Blanding's turtles © BRENNAN COVERHILL



Wood turtle © WENDY HOLMAN



Snapping turtle © MEGAN CROWLEY

<b>STATUS</b>	Threatened
	Vulnerable

<b>STATUS</b>	Special Concern
	Not Listed