

2026 Canadian Herpetological Society Virtual Conference Abstract Submission Guidelines

Presentations for CHS sessions are open to all aspects of the conservation biology of amphibians and reptiles and herpetological research (e.g. population dynamics, genetics, diseases, commercial harvest, status assessment, recovery plans, monitoring, habitat protection, etc.). Presentations on public education projects and ethics are also welcome.

There are two ways of presenting:

1. **Platform presentations** (12 minutes long, with 3 minutes for questions).
2. **Lightning talks** (5 minutes long, no questions) – these are best suited for short updates on current issues, soliciting feedback on research ideas, or other talks that do not involve the presentation of research results. The lightning talks are intended to promote further discussion on the topics presented throughout the conference.

We require abstracts for all types of presentations.

Abstracts, excluding author and title lines, should be no more than 250 words. The abstracts should provide a summary of all elements of the presentation, including the results and conclusions (providing results and conclusions is very important so that this information is available to individuals who are viewing the program at a later date).

Please note:

- Please capitalize the common names of species (e.g., Coastal Tailed Frog, Northern Rubber Boa).
- Please keep location information at a broader level than someone would be able to find publicly available online to protect reptiles and amphibians in Canada that are at risk of poaching.

Abstracts will be submitted online via Oxford Abstracts (see Abstract Submission link).

You will be asked to include the following in your submission:

- Title - in sentence case / format
- Full names of authors
- The name of the author that will be presenting
- Affiliation and contact information of all authors (e.g., department & institution, organization, company, etc.; as well as the city, province, postal code, and email address)

Sample Abstract

Habitat selection and home range size of Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) near the species northern range limit

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Understanding habitat selection by Species at Risk is critical for effective conservation and management plans. In Canada, the majority of Blanding's Turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*) live north of the Great Lakes, and populations in this region have been designated Threatened by COSEWIC, yet there have been no studies on the species in this region. Studies in other areas have produced a basic understanding of habitat use by Blanding's Turtles, although most studies have focused on life-history traits, home range sizes and movement patterns. Our study used radio telemetry to obtain preliminary data on movements and habitat use of adult Blanding's Turtles near the northern limit of the species range. Habitat was characterized into 5 types; pond, stream/oxbow pool, sphagnum marsh, stream delta and sedge meadow. Since a large portion of an individual's home range is available at any point in time, we compare the percentage of radio locations within each habitat category to the percentage of land cover each habitat constituted in the study area. Home range size calculated using the Minimum Convex Polygon Method is compared to sizes reported for other locations. This information will provide a basis for future investigations into microhabitat selection and will help develop predictive models based on habitat structure (water depth, vegetation stratification and species present, water temperature, substrate depth, etc.). The overall goal of our study is to characterize the critical habitat requirements of Blanding's Turtles so that effective recovery plans can be implemented for this Species at Risk.

✓ **Platform**