

MONITORING STRATEGIES FOR THE EASTERN MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE IN KILLBEAR PROVINCIAL PARK

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Regrettably, this paper was not available at the time of printing.

SUMMARY

Chris spoke about habitat selection with the massasauga rattlesnakes in Killbear. He stated how clearly the results showed that gravid females chose more open canopy habitat. Chris also added that he feels that the best way to monitor massasaugas is to keep checking the rookery sites. Hibernation monitoring is good, but transmitters are needed. The best bet for monitoring the hibernacula is to key in on one of three 50m² hibernating complexes (previously identified by radio-telemetry) that feature 10 to 13 individual hibernacula each. Then, one simply monitors these individual sites during emergence and waits to find the snakes.

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