

REPTILES

The Oxbow area is home for a diverse number of species of reptiles. Snapping Turtles are the largest and are common. Their ping pong ball sized eggs are frequently dug up in June by mammals such as raccoons. It is amazing how many nest holes with discarded leathery eggshells are found around the peripheries of the ponds. Other turtle species that are found here are Spiny Softshell, Red-ear Slider, Painted, Map, Mud and Musk Turtles. Removing a hook from a turtle throat is next to impossible. It is best to use barbless hooks and cut the line. Box Turtles are not found here as they are an upland species found away from this flood plain.

Snakes such as the Northern Water Snake are here, but not so common. Great Blue Herons, abundant in the Oxbow area, make an easy meal of them. Other snakes occasionally found here, such as Black Rat and Racer, may come in from hibernation areas above the flood waters. The farm field rodents are their main prey. There are no poisonous Cottonmouth Snakes in the Oxbow waters!

For more information, visit www.oxbowinc.org or call 812-290-2941.

For assistance in the event of an emergency, please call 911 (make sure you advise you are in Indiana) or the Dearborn County Sheriff's Dispatch at (812) 537-3431.