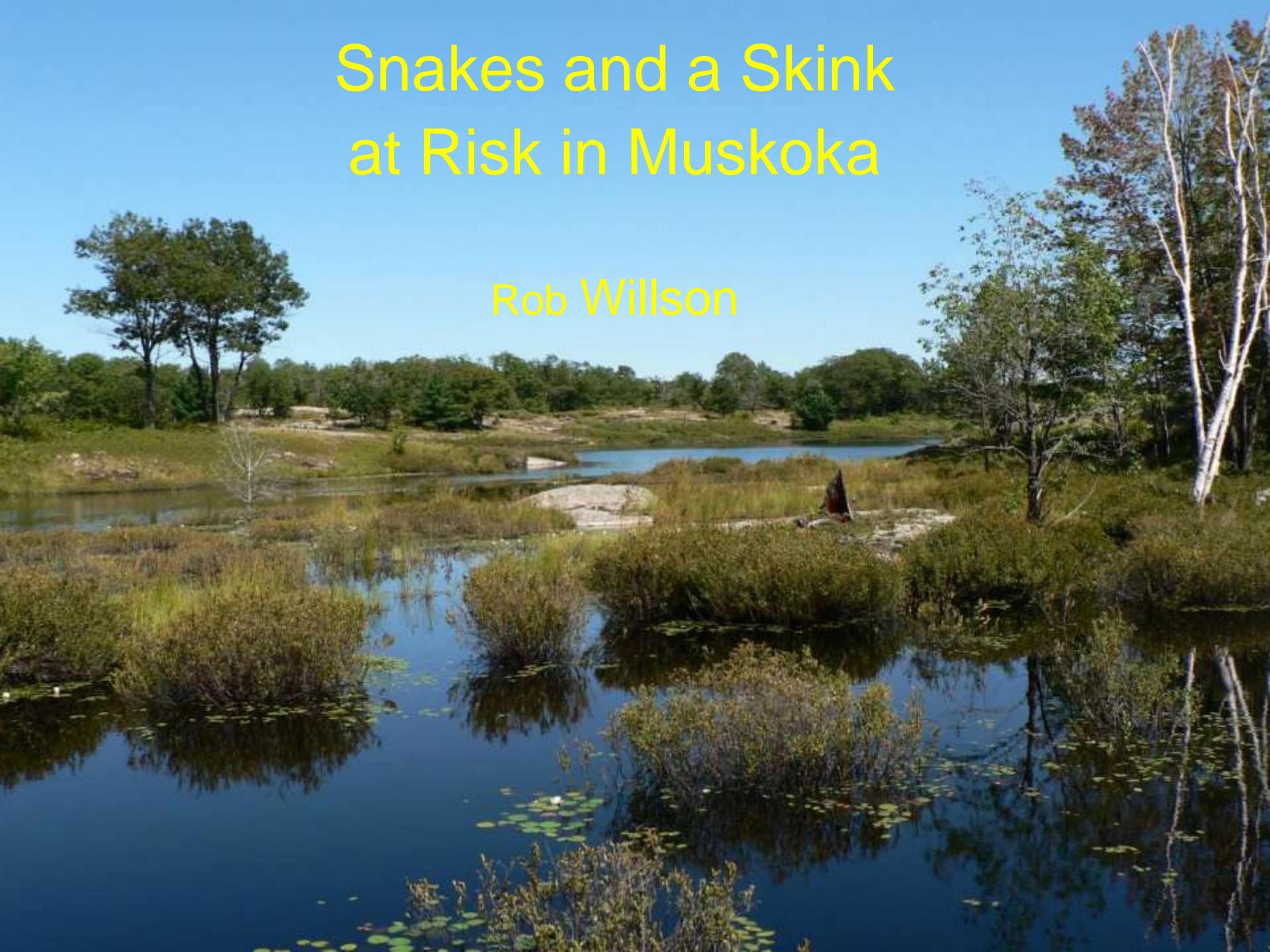


Snakes and a Skink at Risk in Muskoka

Rob Willson



Talk Objectives

- Introduction to the snakes and lizards (“Squamates”) designated as Species at Risk in Parry Sound-Muskoka
- What are some of the things we know about these secretive creatures

Who determines status?

- Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)
- Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO)

Status Assigned by COSEWIC & COSSARO (MNR)

- Extirpated
- Endangered (Protected Under ESA)
- Threatened (Protected Under ESA)
- Special Concern (Planning Act, PPS)
- Not at Risk
- Data Deficient

Squamates at Risk in Muskoka & Georgian Bay

- **Threatened:**
 - Eastern Foxsnake
 - Massasauga Rattlesnake
 - Eastern Hog-nosed Snake
- **Special Concern:**
 - Milksnake
 - Eastern Ribbonsnake
 - Five-lined Skink

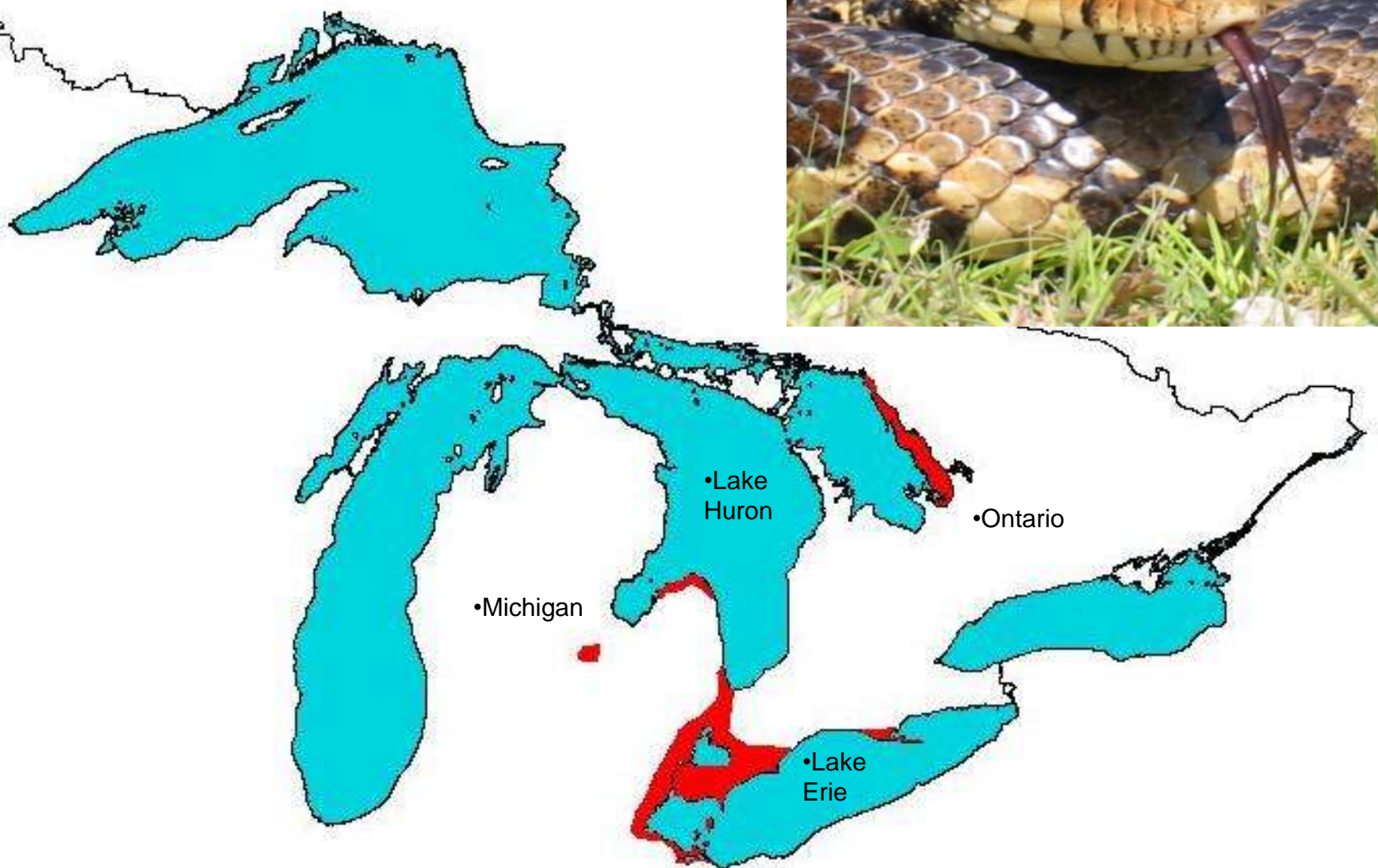
Compared to fish, mammals, birds, and amphibians, reptiles as a group are disproportionately at risk in Ontario

- 20 of the 26 species of reptiles that occur in Ontario have been listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern

Eastern Foxsnake (*Pantherophis gloydi*)

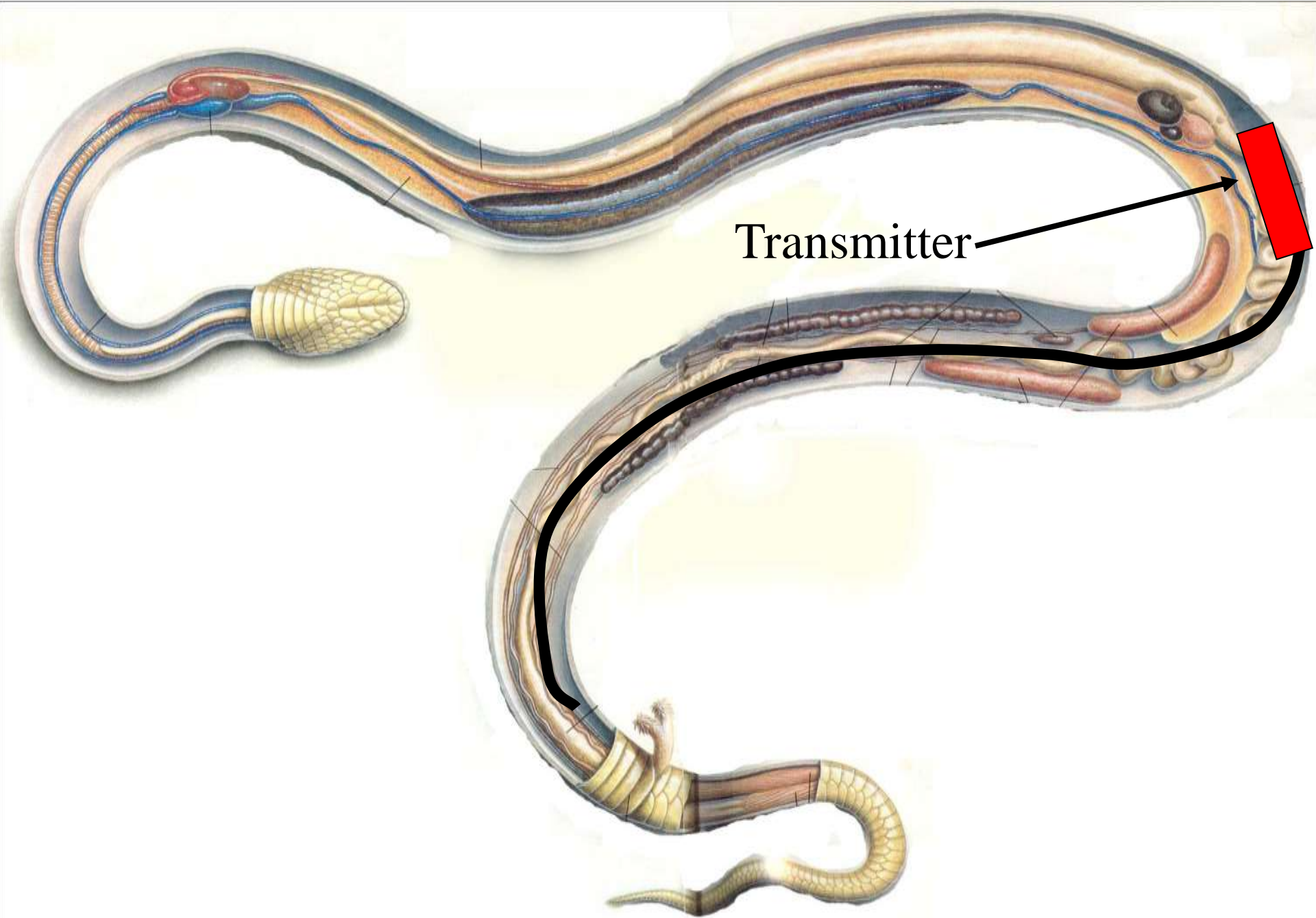
- Large size (max 1.8 m; >1 kg)
- Lays eggs, constrictor
- Excellent climber & swimmer
- Great Lakes/St. Lawrence population designated Threatened





■ •Approximate global range of the eastern foxsnake





Transmitter













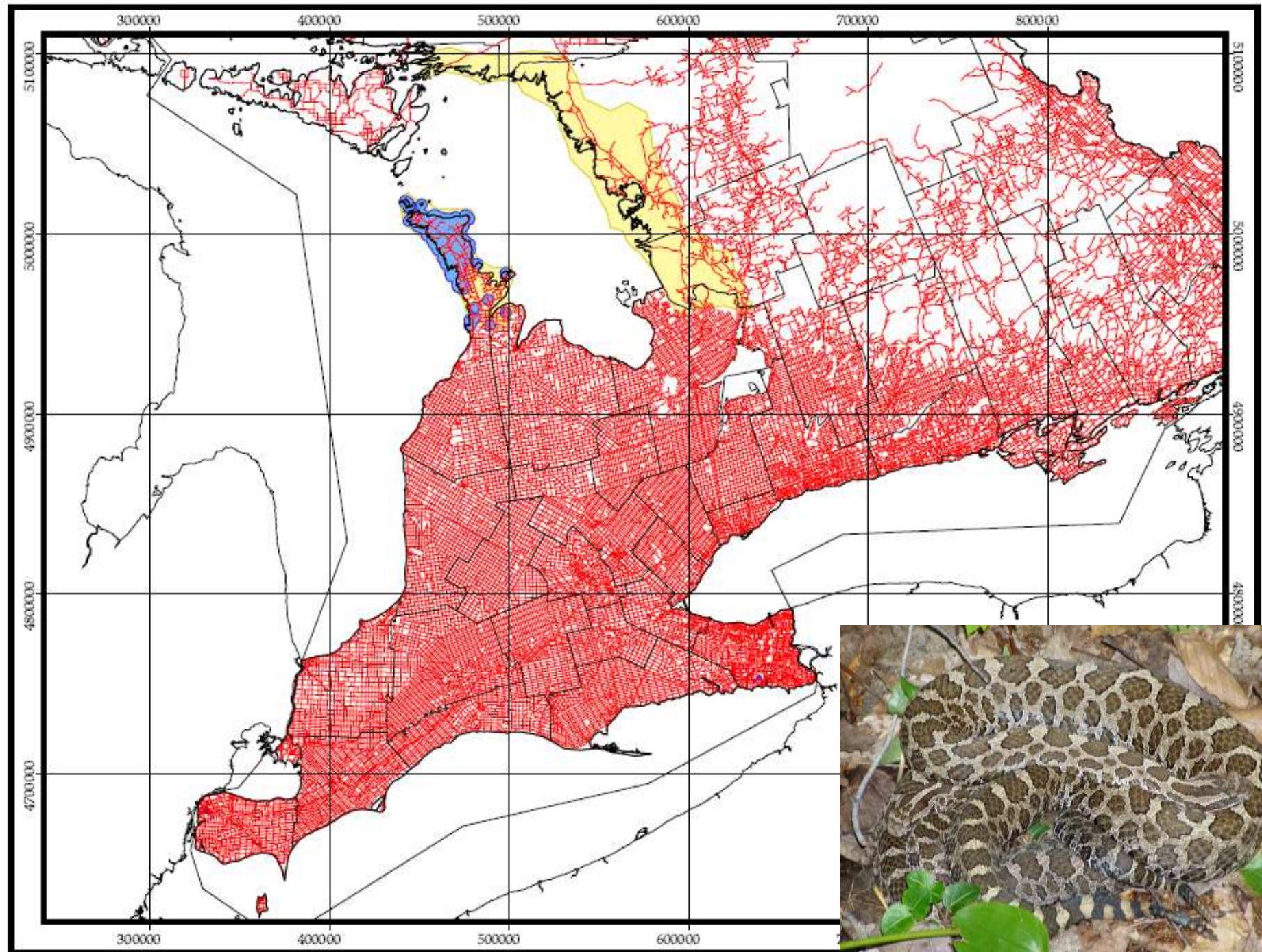




Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*)

- Intermediate size (< 1 m; < 1 kg)
- Gives birth to live young, ambush predator
- Venomous, but danger to public is minimal
- Designated Threatened

















Eastern Hog-nosed Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*)

- Intermediate size (< 1 m; < 1 kg)
- Lays eggs, active forager
- Harmless despite its elaborate display
- Designated Threatened





























































Milksnake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*)

- Intermediate size (< 1 m; <0.5 kg)
- Lays eggs, constrictor
- Primarily nocturnal
- Designated Special Concern



Eastern Ribbonsnake (*Thamnophis sauritus*)

- Intermediate size (< 1 m; <0.5 kg)
- Gives birth to live young, active forager
- Very similar to common gartersnake
- Designated Special Concern



Five-lined Skink (*Plestiodon fasciatus*)

- Intermediate size (< 0.2 m)
- Lays eggs, Ontario's only Lizard
- Great Lakes/St. Lawrence population designated Special Concern



K. Martyn









