

Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (MWPARC) Student Travel Grant Report

Awardee: Joey Cannizzaro

Organization: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

In one or two paragraphs, describe the work you participated in that was facilitated by this award.

Last summer, using funds awarded from the Midwest PARC student travel grant, I led and carried out turtle trap surveys for the endangered Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) in Milwaukee county Wisconsin. The status of *E. blandingii* in Wisconsin's most populous county is unknown. So using travel funds and a partnership with the Schlitzen Audubon Nature Center, I surveyed nature center aquatic habitats for the presence of the Blanding's turtle through the use of aquatic turtle hoop traps. Identifying population size is integral in the continued proliferation and sustainable management of imperiled herpetofauna.



Furthermore, I tracked via VHF radio telemetry an adult female *E. blandingii* post spring emergence, pre and post nesting season and during late summer of 2022. I took data on location and use of habitat by the turtle. Understanding where a species spatially occurs is necessary for land managers to target and alter best management practices to support cryptic species.

How has this work aided you in achieving your career goals?

The ability to collaborate, lead and plan a conservation project has been an excellent educational experience for me and further exposes me to a diverse set of skills one requires in the monumental undertaking that is the research and management of imperiled Herpetofauna. I thank Midwest PARC for the student travel grant, which without it would not make this project possible!