

VENOMOUS



Photograph by Paul D. Pratt

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake
(*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*)

The eastern massasauga rattlesnake occurs throughout most of the Great Lakes region and glaciated regions of Ohio including WPAFB. It is listed as endangered by the State of Ohio.

Massasaugas are approximately two to three feet long, have thick gray bodies with a row of large rounded spots down the back, and a predominately black belly. Perhaps the most diagnostic feature is the small rattle on the end of the tail.

They often hide in crayfish burrows or other underground cavities in wet grasslands, hay and grain fields, second-growth swamp forest, dry woodlands, and nearby buildings. They prey on rodents, small birds, frogs, and other snakes. Massasaugas are active from April to late October or early November. During spring and fall they are active during the daytime (i.e., diurnal), and can be seen basking or searching for food.

Although massasaugas are venomous, they are non-aggressive. If left alone, they will not harm people. In fact, the massasauga rattlesnake will not strike unless provoked.

Massasaugas are most likely to be encountered south of Hebble Creek in Area C including the Warfighter Training Area, Twin Base Golf Course, and the former Horse Barn area (see map). Take some precaution when visiting these areas. If you encounter a massasauga on base, please notify WPAFB's Natural Resources Manager.



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Indiana Bat
(*Myotis sodalis*)

The federally-listed endangered Indiana bat ranges throughout the eastern United States during summer and hibernates in caves and mines in winter. They have grayish-brown fur, weigh about 0.3 ounces, and have an average wingspan of 10 inches. Indiana bats are so similar in appearance to their common relative, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), that it was not recognized as a separate species until 1928 when a specimen from a cave in Indiana was examined (thus the origin of the common name, "Indiana" bat).

Indiana bats only occur at WPAFB during summer. Between May and August female Indiana bats form maternity colonies underneath loose bark on standing dead or live trees. Females usually give birth to one pup each year. Maternity colonies of mothers and pups range in number from a few individuals to over one hundred bats. As wooded areas are cleared, Indiana bat summer habitat is lost.

Because Indiana bats are nocturnal and do not roost or hibernate in buildings, they seldom are encountered.

It is a violation of federal law to harass, kill, harm, or take any of these species!



Photo by USFWS

Bald Eagle
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Bald eagles range throughout North America and may be found in Ohio year-round, especially in northern portions of the state. Nesting away from Lake Erie is sporadic. At WPAFB, bald eagles are rare winter visitors. Adults are readily identified by their large size (wingspan of 70 to 90 inches), white heads and tails, and large yellow bill. Juveniles are mostly dark and take four to five years to reach full adult plumage.

Populations of bald eagles declined sharply between the 1950's and 1970's due, in part, to pesticide contamination (i.e., DDT and dieldrin). Bald eagles were federally de-listed in 2007, but are still protected federally under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle protection Act. The bald eagle is listed as threatened by the State of Ohio.

Wintering eagles sustain themselves on a diet of mammalian carrion, waterfowl, and dead or dying fish. Winter foraging areas and diurnal perches are often near streams, lakes, or other water bodies.

The most likely places to see bald eagles at WPAFB are along the Mad River corridor and around the lakes in Area C between December and March. Look for roosting eagles in mature trees with heavy and widely spaced branches near the edges of lakes and the Mad River.



Photo by Eric H. Metzler

Blazing Star Stemborer
(*Papaipema beeriana*)

This nondescript moth is listed as endangered by the State of Ohio. It was first discovered at WPAFB during a survey of Huffman Prairie in 1992. An expert is usually required to identify this moth. They inhabit tall grass prairies, prairie remnants, and similar habitats where their larvae feed on the plants in the *Liatris* genus (blazing star and gayfeather plants).

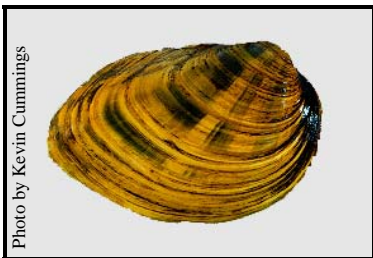


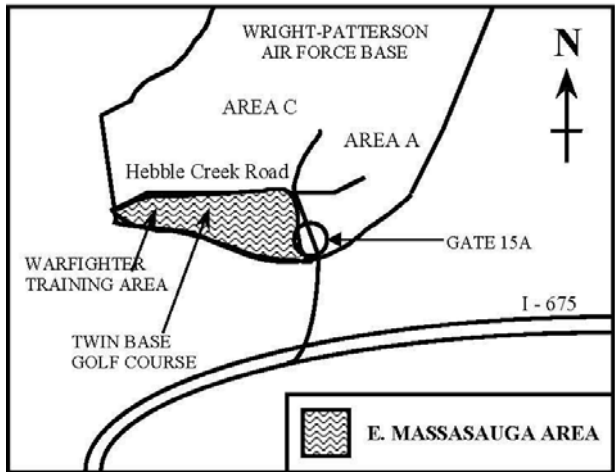
Photo by Kevin Cummings

Clubshell
(*Pleurobema clava*)

This federally-listed endangered freshwater mussel has been extirpated from over 95% of its former range during the past century. It is small (up to 3 inches), and has a tan-colored shell with green rays. It occurs in sand and fine gravel in 12 small rivers and streams in six states including Ohio. Clubshells once lived in the Mad River at WPAFB, but only a single weathered shell was found during a 1998 survey. Continued loss of habitat and water quality deterioration threaten remaining populations.

CAUTION!

Please use caution when visiting or training in the area indicated on the map below. Eastern massasaugas are occasionally encountered in this area of the base. To reduce the risk of a venomous snakebite, do not approach or harass snakes in this area.



If you observe any of the species described in this brochure or for additional information, please contact:

Natural Resources Manager
Natural Resources Management Branch
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
(937) 257-4857



Updated by:
88 ABW
Natural Resources Management Branch
Environmental Quality Section

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