Examples of cool native species that may be seen during Cootes Paradise – Sassafras Point Interpretive Hike

* Plants
	+ Trillium – Ontario's beautiful provincial flower!
	+ Sassafras – A unique, medicinal, sensitive tree species
	+ Hemlock – Stunning, abundant native evergreen trees
	+ Turtlehead – Unique water-loving flower with petals shaped like a turtle’s head
* Birds – Cootes Paradise is an important migratory bird corridor!
	+ Great Blue Heron – Large native wading bird, often seen fishing in the marsh
	+ Bald Eagle – In 2013, Cootes Paradise has the first eaglets hatched on the Canadian shoreline in over 50 years; since then, some birders have been lucky enough to spot them
	+ Trumpeter Swan – Were once endangered but have now bounced back due to restoration efforts
* Fish – Many different species travel through the fishway to spawn in the marsh!
	+ Yellow Perch – A commercially important carnivorous fish that can safely spawn in the marsh
	+ Northern Pike – Very large, ecologically important carnivorous fish
* Other Animals
	+ Eastern Gartersnake – This common snake species can be often seen along the trails or nestled under the rocks and leaf litter
	+ Eastern Red-Backed Salamander – Sensitive, small amphibians often found under fallen logs in wet conditions
	+ Blanding’s Turtle – In 2022, the RBG released the first of this endangered species back into Cootes Paradise in hopes of restoring the population