

do 2021

AN ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES  
OF  
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK, VIRGINIA

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At the end of species are the text, plate and map references to be found in the Peterson Series guide book on the Reptiles and Amphibians.

## TURTLES

Snapping turtle *Chelydra serpentina*  
Snappers are reported from the Big Meadows area. Panorama, and along the AT. Transient only.  
Text 37. Plate 5, 11. Map 3.

Wood turtle *Clemmys* *insculpta*  
Reported from Pinnacles Ranger Station northward. Rare.  
Text 48. Plate 5, 7. Map 5.

Eastern Box turtle *Terrapene c. carolina*  
Only turtle positively known to breed in the Park. Moderately abundant.  
Text 49. Plate 5, 7. Map 28.

Eastern Painted turtle *Chrysemys p. picta*  
Observed only on lower slopes of the ridge. Transient only.  
Text 68. Plate 6, 9. Map 22.

## LIZARDS

Northern Fence lizard *Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus*  
Look for them sunning on open rock faces and dead timber at lower altitudes. Moderately abundant in some areas.  
Text 102. Plate 16. Map 72.

Five-lined skink *Eumeces fasciatus*  
A species of damp woods. Reported from Camp Hoover. Rare.  
Text 122. Plate 19. Map 75.

Broad-headed skink *Eumeces laticeps*  
A species of somewhat drier woods than the previous species. Reported only from Brown Gap. Rare.  
Text 123. Plate 19. Map 76.

Northern Coal skink *Eumeces a. anthracfnus*  
Habitat is in damp wooded hills. A single record in Sugar Hollow by Charlottesville Reservoir in Albemarle Co. Rare.  
Text 126. Plate 19. Map 80.

SNAKES

- Northern Water snake *Nerodia s. sipedon*  
 Seldom found far from water. Reported from an altitude of  
 2500' and below. Not abundant.  
 Text 144. Plate 20. Map 99.
- Northern Red-bellied snake *Storeria o. occipitoniaculata*  
 Frequently reported from Big Meadows and Limberlost area of  
 White Oak Canyon.  
 Text 156. Plate 22. Map 127
- Eastern Garter snake *Thamnophis s. sirtalis*  
 Garter snakes are moderately abundant at all altitudes.  
 Text 157. Plate 23. Map 116.
- Eastern Ribbon snake *Thamnophis s. sauritus*  
 Ribbon snakes occur close to water. Observed from Big Meadows  
 to the lowest reaches of Big Run.  
 Text 164. Plate 23. Map 119.
- Eastern Hognosed snake *Heterodon platyrhinos*  
 Burrows in loose soil and sand. Rare.  
 Text 169. Plate 25. Map 130
- Northern Ring-necked snake *Diadophis punctatus edwardsi*  
 Most common snake in the Park.  
 Text 172. Plate 25. Map 133.
- Eastern Worm snake *Carpophis a. amoenus*  
 A burrowing snake found in and under logs and rocks. Reported  
 from Camp Hoover and along Big Run.  
 Text 174. Plate 25. Map 131.
- Northern Black racer *Coluber c. constrictor*  
 A snake of forest edges and shrubby forest clearings. Occurs at  
 all altitudes with favorable habitat. Reports from Big Meadows,  
 and along US 211 in Thornton gap. Not abundant.  
 Text 178. Plate 26. Map 139.
- Rough Green snake *Opheodrys a. aestivus*  
 Lives among the leaves of bushes and vines. Reported from 3600'  
 at Skyland down to Park Headquarters. Uncommon.  
 Text 184. Plate 25. Map 135.
- Eastern Smooth Green snake *Opheodrys v. vernalis*  
 Hides under deep set rocks. Frequently seen in the Big Meadows  
 area. Rarely seen elsewhere.  
 Text 185. Plate 25. Map 134.
- Corn snake *Elaphe g. guttata*  
 Scattered reports along Skyline Drive. Uncommon.  
 Text 190. Plate 28. Map 150.

Black Rat snake Elaphe o. obsoteta  
Usually the black snake is seen along Skyline Drive. Also found  
in standing timber. Occurs at all elevations. Moderately  
abundant.  
Text 193. Plate 28. Map 149.

Northern Pine snake Pituophis m. melanoleucus  
A single report of this snake from Jarman Gap.  
Text 199. Plate 27. Map 147.

Eastern King snake Lampropeltis g. getulus  
Scattered reports along Skyline Drive. Rare.  
Text 202. Plate 29. Map 156.

Eastern Milk snake Lampropeltis t. triangulum  
Our most abundant king snake. Reported from all altitudes.  
Text 204. Plate 30. Map 153.

#### POISONOUS SNAKES

Northern Copperhead Agkistrodon contortrix mokeson  
Copperheads are found at all altitudes but are most numerous in  
humid forests below 2500'. Moderately abundant in some areas.  
Text 226. Plate 34. Map 174.

Timber rattlesnake Crotalus horridus  
Our largest poisonous snakes, but less often encountered.  
Partial to drier rocky areas, and most active at dusk into  
early evening. Increasingly uncommon.  
Text 233. Plate 35. Map 178.

#### \* SALAMANDERS

Jefferson salamander Ambystoma jeffersonianum  
Burrows in loose soil. Known only from Big Meadows swamp. Not  
reported outside of its late winter breeding period.  
Text 254. Plate 38. Map 206.

Spotted salamander Ambystoma maculatum  
Burrows in loose soil. Big Meadows, and scattered ridge top  
marshes. Found occasionally after rain at lower elevations.  
Text 255. Plate 38. Map 210.

Red-spotted newt Notophthalmus v. viridescens  
Two life stages. [1] Eft, land larval form [2] Aquatic adult.  
Efts wander freely in the Park, being seen frequently by hikers.  
Adults seen in overflow pools along Big Run. Moderately abundant.  
Text 257. Plate 39. Map 198.

Northern Dusky salamander Desmognathus f. fuscus  
Banks of streams, under rock, wood. Abundant at all altitudes.  
Text 261. Plate 41. Map 213.

- Virginia Seal salamander      Desmognathus monticolus jeffersoni  
 Partial to spring seeps. Moderately abundant.  
 Text 266. Plate 41. Hap 216.
- Red-backed salamander      Plethodon cinereus  
 Abundant, found in all forested areas of the Park.  
 Text 272. Plate 40. Hap 233.
- Shenandoah salamander      Plethodon shenandoah  
 This species is endemic to the Park, its range being limited to  
 rock slides above 3,000'.  
 Text 276. Plate [Not illustrated]. Hap 229.
- Slimy salamander      Plethodon g. glutinosus  
 Our largest commonly seen species. Well drained forest areas.  
 Not abundant; all altitudes.  
 Text 276. Plate 41. Map 230.
- Four-toed salamander      Hemidactylium scutatum  
 Occurs in Big Meadows Swamp. Rare.  
 Text 282. Plate 40. Map 239.
- Northern Spring salamander      Gyrinophilus p. porphyriticus  
 In streams under rocks. Away from water in summer.  
 Text 284. Plate 42. Hap 222.
- Northern Red salamander      Pseudotriton r. ruber  
 Under cover on banks of streams. Away from water in summer.  
 Uncommon.  
 Text 286. Plate 42. Hap 224.
- Northern Two-lined salamander      Eurycea b. bislineata  
 Banks of streams under rocks, wood. Away from water in summer.  
 Abundant at all altitudes.  
 Text 288. Plate 43. Map 240.
- Long-tailed salamander      Eurycea l. longicauda  
 In rock crevices, stream bank cover. White Oak Canyon, Big Run.  
 Text 291. Plate 43. Hap 244.

#### FROGS AND TOADS

- Eastern Spadefoot      Scaphiopus h. holbrookii  
 Breeds after heavy summer rain. A rare frog, reported only from  
 Park Headquarters.  
 Text 299. Plate 44. Hap 253.
- American toad      Bufo a. americanus  
 Moderately common at all altitudes. Seen in early evening.  
 Text 306. Plate 44. Map 261.
- Fowler's toad      Bufo fowleri  
 A single report from Camp Hoover. Rare.  
 Text 310. Plate 44. Map 265.

- Northern Cricket frog Acris c. crepitans  
Occurs along margins of streams. Reported from Camp Hoover,  
Black Rock Spring, and the head of Paines Run. Uncommon.  
Text 317. Plate 46. Map 291.
- Northern Spring peeper Hyla c. crucifer  
Breeds in the Big Meadows swamp in early spring, but its  
rarely seen afterward.  
Text 320. Plate 47. Map 273.
- Gray treefrog Hyla versicolor  
It is reported from Big Meadows and Simmon's Gap ranger station.  
Text 323. Plate 47. Map 278.
- Upland Chorus frog Pseudacris triseriata feriarum  
Breeds in Big Meadows swamp. Uncommon.  
Text 329. Plate 46. Map 289.
- Bull frog Rana catesbiana  
Observed in Big Meadows swamp. Big and Jeremy's Runs.  
Text 338. Plate 48. Map 302.
- Green frog Rana clamitans melanota  
Abundant in springs and creeks. Tadpoles reported in Big Meadows  
swamp, around Camp Hoover and along Big Run.  
Text 341. Plate 48. Map 299.
- Wood frog Rana sylvatica  
This species breeds in large numbers in the Big Meadows region  
in late winter yet they are seldom seen afterward.  
Text 343. Plate 48. Map 309.
- Pickerel frog Rana palustris  
Occurs in springs, wet grass, banks of all water courses.  
Breeds in overflow pools beside all creeks. Moderately abundant.  
Text 347. Plate 48. Map 307.

#### REFERENCES

CONANT, Roger, 1975. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians  
of Eastern and Central North America. Second edition. Houghton  
Mifflin Co. Boston.