

# Amphibians and Reptiles of West Virginia

## A Field Checklist

There are 87 species of amphibians and reptiles in West Virginia. Both groups are cold-blooded vertebrates whose body temperatures are regulated by the temperature of the environment. Amphibians are easily distinguished from reptiles. Amphibians lack body scales (except some tropical and subtropical forms) and claws which are present on reptiles.

Many people often malign members of these groups, especially snakes. This disfavor is unjustified. Amphibians and reptiles are of immeasurable ecological value, serving as a natural pest control service, eating many rodents and insects that annoy humans.

In studying amphibians and reptiles, you should refer to a field guide for key identification characteristics. In addition, the habitat as well as the region of the state where the animal was observed is important. Some species have limited habitats and ranges and this information can assist in identifying the animal.

The number of different species of amphibians and reptiles in West Virginia are:

AMPHIBIANS (48)	REPTILES (39)
Toads 3	Turtles 13
Frogs 11	Lizards and Skinks 6
Salamanders 34	Snakes 20

The classification of amphibians and reptiles in this checklist conforms to current accepted zoological nomenclature. Although the scientific names may appear formidable and unpronounceable, they are necessary because an animal may often be known by more than one common name.

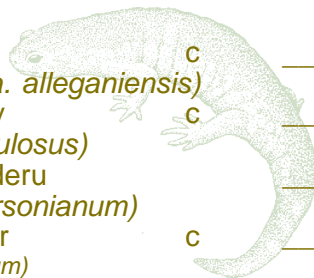
This checklist was designed for use by students as an educational tool or by anyone interested in amphibians and reptiles that inhabit West Virginia. The incidence or likelihood of finding each animal has been designated by one of the following letters:

- c** = common – can be commonly seen in suitable habitat within present distribution
- u** = uncommon – seldom seen because of restricted habitat and/or secretive behavior
- r** = rare – not often present even in suitable habitat
- \*\*** = Denotes more than one subspecies occurs in WV.

## Amphibians

### Salamanders

_____ Eastern Hellbender ( <i>Cryptobranchus a. alleganiensis</i> )	<b>c</b>	_____ Marbled Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma opacum</i> )	<b>c</b>
_____ Common Mudpuppy ( <i>Necturus m. maculosus</i> )	<b>c</b>	_____ Small-mouthed Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma texanum</i> )	<b>r</b>
_____ Jefferson Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i> )		_____ Streamside Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma barbouri</i> )	<b>r</b>
_____ Spotted Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma maculatum</i> )	<b>c</b>	_____ Red-spotted Newt, Red Eft ( <i>Notophthalmus v. viridescens</i> )	<b>c</b>



_____ Northern Dusky Salamander ( <i>Desmognathus fuscus</i> )	<b>c</b>	_____ Southern Two-lined Salamander ( <i>Eurycea cirrigera</i> )	<b>c</b>
_____ Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander ( <i>Desmognathus ochrophaeus</i> )	<b>c</b>	_____ Northern Two-lined Salamander ( <i>Eurycea bislineata</i> )	<b>c</b>
_____ Seal Salamander ( <i>Desmognathus monticola</i> )	<b>c</b>	_____ Long-tailed Salamander ( <i>Eurycea l. longicauda</i> )	<b>c</b>
_____ Black Mountain Salamander ( <i>Desmognathus walteri</i> )	<b>u</b>	_____ Cave Salamander ( <i>Eurycea lucifuga</i> )	<b>u</b>
_____ Black-bellied Salamander ( <i>Desmognathus quadramaculatus</i> )	<b>u</b>		
_____ Eastern Red-backed Salamander ( <i>Plethodon cinereus</i> )	<b>c</b>		
_____ Southern Ravine Salamander ( <i>Plethodon richmondi</i> )	<b>c</b>		
_____ Northern Ravine Salamander ( <i>Plethodon electromorphus</i> )	<b>c</b>		
_____ Valley and Ridge Salamander ( <i>Plethodon hoffmani</i> )	<b>c</b>		
_____ Shenandoah Mountain Salamander ( <i>Plethodon virginia</i> )	<b>u</b>		
_____ Cumberland Plateau Salamander ( <i>Plethodon kentucki</i> )	<b>c</b>		
_____ Cheat Mountain Salamander ( <i>Plethodon nettingi</i> )	<b>r</b>		
_____ Northern Slimy Salamander ( <i>Plethodon glutinosus</i> )	<b>c</b>		
_____ White-spotted Slimy Salamander ( <i>Plethodon cylindraceus</i> )	<b>c</b>		
_____ Wehrle's Salamander ( <i>Plethodon wehrlei</i> )	<b>c</b>		
_____ Cow Knob Salamander ( <i>Plethodon punctatus</i> )	<b>u</b>		
_____ Four-toed Salamander ( <i>Hemidactylum scutatum</i> )	<b>c</b>		
_____ **Northern Spring Salamander ( <i>Gyrinophilus p. porphyriticus</i> )	<b>c</b>		
_____ **Kentucky Spring Salamander ( <i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus duryi</i> )	<b>c</b>		
_____ West Virginia Spring Salamander ( <i>Gyrinophilus subterraneus</i> )	<b>r</b>		
_____ Midland Mud Salamander ( <i>Pseudotriton montanus diastictus</i> )	<b>u</b>		
_____ Northern Red Salamander ( <i>Pseudotriton r. ruber</i> )	<b>c</b>		
_____ Green Salamander ( <i>Aneides aeneus</i> )	<b>u</b>		

### Toads

_____ Eastern Spadefoot ( <i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i> )	<b>r</b>
_____ Eastern American Toad ( <i>Bufo a. americanus</i> )	<b>c</b>
_____ Fowler's Toad ( <i>Bufo fowleri</i> )	<b>c</b>

### Cricket Frogs

_____ **Eastern Cricket Frog ( <i>Acris c. crepitans</i> )	<b>u</b>
_____ **Blanchard's Cricket Frog ( <i>Acris crepitans blanchardi</i> )	<b>r</b>

### Tree Frogs

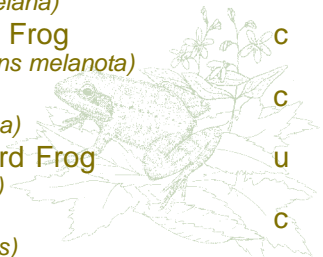
_____ Gray Treefrog ( <i>Hyla versicolor</i> )	<b>c</b>
_____ Cope's Gray Treefrog ( <i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i> )	<b>c</b>

### Chorus Frogs

_____ Mountain Chorus Frog ( <i>Pseudacris brachyphona</i> )	<b>c</b>
_____ Upland Chorus Frog ( <i>Pseudacris f. feriarum</i> )	<b>u</b>
_____ Northern Spring Peeper ( <i>Pseudacris c. crucifer</i> )	<b>c</b>

### True Frogs

_____ American Bullfrog ( <i>Rana catesbeiana</i> )	<b>c</b>
_____ Northern Green Frog ( <i>Rana clamitans melanota</i> )	<b>c</b>
_____ Wood Frog ( <i>Rana sylvatica</i> )	<b>c</b>
_____ Northern Leopard Frog ( <i>Rana pipiens</i> )	<b>u</b>
_____ Pickerel Frog ( <i>Rana palustris</i> )	<b>c</b>



# Reptiles

## Turtles

- \_\_\_ Eastern Snapping Turtle c  
(*Chelydra s. serpentina*)
- \_\_\_ Spotted Turtle r  
(*Clemmys guttata*)
- \_\_\_ Wood Turtle u  
(*Glyptemys insculpta*)
- \_\_\_ Eastern Box Turtle c  
(*Terrapene c. carolina*)
- \_\_\_ Northern Map Turtle u  
(*Graptemys geographica*)
- \_\_\_ Ouachita Map Turtle r  
(*Graptemys o. ouachitensis*)
- \_\_\_ \*\*Eastern Painted Turtle c  
(*Chrysemys p. picta*)
- \_\_\_ \*\*Midland Painted Turtle c  
(*Chrysemys picta marginata*)
- \_\_\_ Red-eared Turtle c  
(*Trachemys scripta elegans*)
- \_\_\_ Eastern River Cooter u  
(*Pseudemys c. concinna*)
- \_\_\_ Northern Red-bellied Cooter u  
(*Pseudemys rubriventris*)
- \_\_\_ Stinkpot c  
(*Sternotherus odoratus*)
- \_\_\_ Eastern Spiny Softshell c  
(*Apalone s. spinifera*)
- \_\_\_ Midland Smooth Softshell r  
(*Apalone m. mutica*)

## Lizards

- \_\_\_ Eastern Fence Lizard c  
(*Sceloporus undulatus*)
- \_\_\_ Eastern Six-lined Racerunner u  
(*Aspidoscelis s. sexlineata*)

## Skinks

- \_\_\_ Little Brown Skink u  
(*Scincella lateralis*)
- \_\_\_ Common Five-lined Skink c  
(*Eumeces fasciatus*)

- \_\_\_ Broad-headed Skink u  
(*Eumeces laticeps*)
- \_\_\_ Northern Coal Skink u  
(*Eumeces a. anthracinus*)

## Snakes

- \_\_\_ Queen Snake c  
(*Regina septemvittata*)
- \_\_\_ Common Watersnake c  
(*Nerodia s. sipedon*)
- \_\_\_ Northern Brownsnake u  
(*Storeria d. dekayi*)
- \_\_\_ Northern Red-bellied Snake c  
(*Storeria o. occipitomaculata*)
- \_\_\_ Common Ribbonsnake u  
(*Thamnophis s. sauritus*)
- \_\_\_ Eastern Gartersnake c  
(*Thamnophis s. sirtalis*)
- \_\_\_ \*\*Eastern Smooth Earthsnake u  
(*Virginia v. valeriae*)
- \_\_\_ \*\*Mountain Earthsnake u  
(*Virginia valeriae pulchra*)
- \_\_\_ Eastern Hog-nosed Snake u  
(*Heterodon platirhinos*)
- \_\_\_ Eastern Wormsnake c  
(*Carphophis a. amoenus*)
- \_\_\_ Northern Ring-necked Snake c  
(*Diadophis punctatus edwardsii*)
- \_\_\_ Northern Black Racer c  
(*Coluber c. constrictor*)
- \_\_\_ Northern Rough Greensnake u  
(*Opheodrys a. aestivus*)
- \_\_\_ Smooth Green Snake c  
(*Opheodrys vernalis*)
- \_\_\_ Red Corn Snake r  
(*Elaphe guttata*)
- \_\_\_ Eastern Ratsnake c  
(*Elaphe alleghaniensis*)
- \_\_\_ Northern Pine Snake r  
(*Pituophis m. melanoleucus*)
- \_\_\_ \*\*Eastern Kingsnake r  
(*Lampropeltis g. getula*)
- \_\_\_ \*\*Eastern Black Kingsnake c  
(*Lampropeltis getula niger*)
- \_\_\_ Eastern Milksnake c  
(*Lampropeltis t. triangulum*)

- \_\_\_ Northern Copperhead c  
(*Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen*)
- \_\_\_ Timber Rattlesnake c  
(*Crotalus horridus*)

## Suggested Literature for Further Information:

- Amphibians and Reptiles in West Virginia*** by N. Bayard Green and Thomas K. Pauley (1987, University of Pittsburgh Press).
- Toads and Frogs of West Virginia\**** by Thomas K. Pauley
- Turtles and Lizards of West Virginia\**** by Thomas K. Pauley and Michael Seidel.
- Snakes of West Virginia\**** by N. Bayard Green, Frank Jernejcic, Thomas K. Pauley and Duane Pursley.
- Salamanders of West Virginia\**** by Thomas K. Pauley.

\*brochures available from the WVDNR

Published by the  
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Resources Section  
Wildlife Diversity Program  
P.O. Box 67  
Elkins, WV 26241  
(304) 637-0245

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