

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CHECKLIST



Blue Ridge Red Salamander



Cope's Gray Treefrog



Eastern Box Turtle



Northern Copperhead

The Southern Appalachian region is a hotspot for amphibian diversity—especially salamanders. More than 50 species of amphibians have been found along the parkway, including 43 different salamanders. Frogs, toads, and salamanders are most active on warm, rainy nights, but can sometimes be found underneath rocks and logs, or in a stream during the day. Due to habitat loss, many amphibian species are declining in this area.

Though they enjoy a drier, sunnier climate, a variety of reptiles are also found along the parkway, including 20 species of snakes, 10 turtle species, and 8 types of lizards. Reptiles are more active during daylight hours, but are often secretive.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

The following codes refer to an animal's abundance in suitable habitat along the parkway, not the likelihood of seeing it. Information on the abundance of each species comes from wildlife sightings reported by park staff and visitors, from other agencies, and from park research reports.

C – COMMON
U – UNCOMMON
R – RARE

*** – LISTED** – Any species federally or state listed as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern.

Non-native – species not historically present on the parkway that have been introduced (usually by humans.)

NC – NORTH CAROLINA

VA – VIRGINIA

If you see anything unusual while on the parkway, please report it at one of our visitor centers or email BRP_Wildlife@nps.gov

CLASS REPTILIA

ORDER SQUAMATA

FAMILY COLUBRIDAE

- ___ **Eastern Worm Snake** (*Carphophis amoenus amoenus*) – (NC-U, VA-C) Habitat: Moist, forested habitats at low to medium elevations.
- ___ **Northern Black Racer** (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Generalist.
- ___ **Northern Ring-necked Snake** (*Diadophis punctatus edwardsii*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Forested areas with decaying logs or stumps.
- ___ **Red Corn Snake** (*Pantherophis guttatus*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Low elevation forests.

- ___ **Eastern Rat Snake** (*Pantherophis alleghaniensis*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Varies from rocky timbered hillsides to flat farmland.
- ___ **Eastern Hog-nosed Snake** (*Heterodon platirhinos*) – (NC-R, VA-U) Habitat: Sandy or friable loam soil habitats at lower elevation.
- ___ **Eastern Kingsnake** (*Lampropeltis getula*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Generalist at low elevations.
- ___ **Northern Mole Snake** (*Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata*) – (VA-R) Habitat: Mixed pine forests and open fields under logs or boards.
- ___ **Eastern Milk Snake** (*Lampropeltis triangulum*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Woodlands, grassy balds, and meadows.
- ___ **Northern Water Snake** (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Wetlands, streams, and lakes.
- ___ **Rough Green Snake** (*Opheodrys aestivus*) – (NC-R, VA-R) Habitat: Low elevation forests.
- ___ **Smooth Green Snake** (*Opheodrys vernalis*) – (VA-R) Habitat: Moist, open woodlands or herbaceous wetlands under fallen debris.
- ___ **Northern Pine Snake** (*Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus*) – (VA-R) Habitat: Abandoned fields and dry mountain ridges with sandier soils.
- ___ **Queen Snake** (*Regina septemvittata*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Rocky streams and rivers at lower altitudes.
- ___ **Northern Brown Snake** (*Storeria dekayi dekayi*) – (NC-R, VA-R) Habitat: Wetlands; moist woods and hillsides.
- ___ **Red-bellied Snake** (*Storeria occipitomaculata*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Open deciduous and pine forests, swamp edges, and woody developed areas.
- ___ **Eastern Ribbon Snake** (*Thamnophis sauritus*) – (NC-R, VA-U) Habitat: Damp meadows, marshes, and along streams.
- ___ **Eastern Garter Snake** (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Habitat generalist.

FAMILY DACTYLOIDAE

- ___ **Green Anole** (*Anolis carolinensis*) – (NC-R) Habitat: Habitat generalist; in trees and shrubs or fences and walls in developed areas.

FAMILY PHRYNOSOMATIDAE

- ___ **Eastern Fence Lizard** (*Sceloporus undulatus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Lower elevation open pine and mixed woods, building sites, and fences.

FAMILY SCINCIDAE

- ___ **Northern Coal Skink** (*Plestiodon anthracinus anthracinus*) – (NC-R, VA-R) Habitat: Rocky, wooded areas.
- ___ **Common Five-lined Skink** (*Plestiodon fasciatus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Moist, wooded areas.
- ___ **Southeastern Five-lined Skink** (*Plestiodon inexpectatus*) – (VA-R) Habitat: Drier forests of pines or mixed hardwoods and around buildings.
- ___ **Broad-headed Skink** (*Plestiodon laticeps*) – (NC-R, VA-R) Habitat: Wooded areas with large spreading trees at lower elevations.
- ___ **Little Brown Skink** (*Scincella lateralis*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Disturbed areas and open woodlands at lower elevations.

FAMILY TEIIDAE

- ___ **Six-lined Racerunner** (*Aspidozelis sexlineata*) – (VA-R) Habitat: Open, well-drained areas with loose soils and scattered vegetation.

FAMILY VIPERIDAE

- ___ **Northern Copperhead** (*Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Woodlands.
- ___ **Timber Rattlesnake** (*Crotalus horridus*) – (NC-U*, VA-U) Habitat: Rocky hillsides, fields bordered by forests, and low elevation pines.

ORDER TESTUDINES

FAMILY CHELYDRIDAE

- ___ **Snapping Turtle** (*Chelydra serpentina*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Aquatic habitat generalist.

FAMILY EMYDIDAE

- ___ **Eastern Painted Turtle** (*Chrysemys picta picta*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Marshes, lakes, and ponds.
- ___ **Spotted Turtle** (*Clemmys guttata*) – (VA-U) Habitat: Very slow moving, shallow water with lots of vegetation.
- ___ **Bog Turtle** (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*) – (NC-R*, VA-R*) Habitat: Wet fields and bogs.
- ___ **Eastern River Cooter** (*Pseudemys concinna concinna*) – (VA-U) Habitat: Large slow moving rivers and streams with exposed areas for basking.

- ___ **Northern Red-bellied Cooter** (*Pseudemys rubriventris*) – (NC-R, VA-R) Habitat: Rivers, lakes, and ponds.
- ___ **Eastern Box Turtle** (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Forested habitats and field edges; largely terrestrial.
- ___ **Red-eared Slider** (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) – (NC-R, VA-R) Habitat: Rivers, ditches, lakes, and ponds. Non-native.

FAMILY KINOSTERNIDAE

- ___ **Eastern Musk Turtle** (*Sternotherus odoratus*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Shallow, clear water lakes and streams at lower elevations.

FAMILY TRIONYCHIDAE

- ___ **Eastern Spiny Softshell** (*Apalone spinifera spinifera*) – (NC-R*) Habitat: Rivers, lakes, and ponds.



Bog Turtle

CLASS AMPHIBIA

ORDER ANURA

FAMILY BUFONIDAE

- ___ **American Toad** (*Anaxyrus americanus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Habitat generalist.
- ___ **Fowler's Toad** (*Anaxyrus fowleri*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Habitat generalist.

FAMILY HYLIDAE

- ___ **Eastern Cricket Frog** (*Acris crepitans*) – (NC-U, VA-C) Habitat: Open grassy margins of ponds and streams.

- ___ **Cope's Gray Treefrog** (*Hyla chrysoscelis*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Areas with small trees or shrubs in/near shallow bodies of water.
- ___ **Gray Treefrog** (*Hyla versicolor*) – (VA-C) Habitat: Areas with small trees or shrubs in/near shallow bodies of water.
- ___ **Spring Peeper** (*Pseudacris crucifer*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Woodlands near temporary/semi-permanent ponds or swamps.
- ___ **Upland Chorus Frog** (*Pseudacris feriarum*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Grassy swales, moist woodlands, ponds, bogs, and marshes.

FAMILY RANIDAE

- ___ **American Bullfrog** (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Larger lakes, ponds, bogs, and sluggish stream habitats.
- ___ **Green Frog** (*Lithobates clamitans*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Shallow fresh water habitats.
- ___ **Pickereel Frog** (*Lithobates palustris*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Sphagnum bogs, rocky ravines, meadow streams, and other water habitats.
- ___ **Southern Leopard Frog** (*Lithobates sphenoccephalus utricularius*) – (VA-R) Habitat: Freshwater habitat generalist.
- ___ **Wood Frog** (*Lithobates sylvaticus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Moist, wooded habitats near water.

ORDER CAUDATA

FAMILY AMBYSTOMATIDAE

- ___ **Jefferson Salamander** (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*) – (VA-R) Habitat: Moist, well-drained deciduous forests with breeding ponds.
- ___ **Spotted Salamander** (*Ambystoma maculatum*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Forested areas with vernal ponds or temporary wetlands.
- ___ **Eastern Tiger Salamander** (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) – (VA-R*) Habitat: Wooded or unwooded areas with light to sandy soils.

FAMILY CRYPTOBRANCHIDAE

- ___ **Eastern Hellbender** (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*) – (NC-R*, VA-R*) Habitat: Large, clean, and fast flowing streams with big flat rocks.

FAMILY PLETHODONTIDAE

- ___ **Carolina Mountain Dusky Salamander** (*Desmognathus carolinensis*) – (NC-C) Habitat: Seeps, wet rock faces, and forest floor habitats near streams.
- ___ **Northern Dusky Salamander** (*Desmognathus fuscus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Edges of small woodland streams, springs, and seeps.
- ___ **Imitator Salamander** (*Desmognathus imitator*) – (NC-R) Habitat: Wet rock faces, seeps, streams, and forest floors near streams.
- ___ **Shovel-nosed Salamander** (*Desmognathus marmoratus*) – (NC-C) Habitat: Brooks, streams, or rills with gravel and rocks.
- ___ **Seal Salamander** (*Desmognathus monticola*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Hardwood forests near small to moderate sized rocky streams.
- ___ **Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander** (*Desmognathus ochrophaeus*) – (VA-C) Habitat: Wet rock faces, seeps, streams, and forest floor habitats near streams.
- ___ **Ocoee Salamander** (*Desmognathus ocoee*) – (NC-C) Habitat: Wet rock faces, seeps, and forest floors near streams.
- ___ **Blue Ridge Dusky Salamander** (*Desmognathus orestes*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Wet rock faces, seeps, streams, and near streams.
- ___ **Black-bellied Salamander** (*Desmognathus quadramaculatus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Boulder-strewn brooks, waterfalls, and areas where water drips or flows.
- ___ **Santeetlah Dusky Salamander** (*Desmognathus santeetlah*) – (NC-U) Habitat: Edges of small woodland streams, springs, and seeps.
- ___ **Northern Pygmy Salamander** (*Desmognathus organi*) – (NC-U) Habitat: Hardwood forests under moss, leaf litter, rotten logs, or in seeps.
- ___ **Pygmy Salamander** (*Desmognathus wrighti*) – (NC-U) Habitat: Under moss, leaf litter, rotten wood, or rocks in spruce-fir forests.
- ___ **Northern Two-lined Salamander** (*Eurycea bislineata*) – (VA-C) Habitat: Seeps and streams in hardwood forests and swamps.
- ___ **Southern Two-lined Salamander** (*Eurycea cirrigera*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Seeps and streams in hardwood forests and swamps.

- ___ **Three-lined Salamander** (*Eurycea guttolineata*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Shaded seeps, bogs, streams, or vernal ponds in hardwood forests.
- ___ **Long-tailed Salamander** (*Eurycea longicauda*) – (NC-R*, VA-U) Habitat: Near shaded seeps or streams and sometimes forested areas.
- ___ **Cave Salamander** (*Eurycea lucifuga*) – (VA-R) Habitat: Usually cave entrances but occasionally wooded areas under rocks or logs near water.
- ___ **Blue Ridge Two-lined Salamander** (*Eurycea wilderae*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Seeps, and streams in hardwood forests and swamps.
- ___ **Spring Salamander** (*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Springs and other small, cold, rocky streams.
- ___ **Four-toed Salamander** (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) – (NC-R*, VA-R) Habitat: Forests near wetlands and vernal ponds.
- ___ **Eastern Red-backed Salamander** (*Plethodon cinereus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Under rocks, leaf litter, and rotten logs in forests.
- ___ **White-spotted Slimy Salamander** (*Plethodon cylindraceus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Moist woodland habitats not susceptible to flooding.
- ___ **Northern Slimy Salamander** (*Plethodon glutinosus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Slopes, ravines, or floodplains in hardwoods or pines.
- ___ **Valley and Ridge Salamander** (*Plethodon hoffmani*) – (VA-U) Habitat: In deciduous or mixed hardwood forests under logs and rocks.
- ___ **Peaks of Otter Salamander** (*Plethodon hubrichti*) – (VA-U) Habitat: Moist forest floors at higher elevations.
- ___ **Red-cheeked Salamander** (*Plethodon jordani*) – (NC-C) Habitat: Moist mature hardwood forests under moss and rotting logs.
- ___ **Southern Gray-cheeked Salamander** (*Plethodon metcalfi*) – (NC-C) Habitat: Forest floors with lots of rocks and logs.
- ___ **Northern Gray-cheeked Salamander** (*Plethodon montanus*) – (NC-U) Habitat: Moist hardwood/mixed forests under leaf litter, logs, or rocks.
- ___ **Southern Ravine Salamander** (*Plethodon richmondi*) – (NC-U, VA-R) Habitat: High, moist, wooded slopes.

- ___ **Southern Red-backed Salamander** (*Plethodon serratus*) – (NC-U) Habitat: Under rocks, leaf litter, and rotten logs in forests.
- ___ **Big Levels Salamander** (*Plethodon sherando*) – (VA-R) Habitat: Forests and rocky talus slopes.
- ___ **Southern Appalachian Salamander** (*Plethodon teyahalee*) – (NC-U) Habitat: Deciduous forests with rocks and logs.
- ___ **Wehrle's Salamander** (*Plethodon wehrlei*) – (NC-R*, VA-R) Habitat: Upland forests, entrances to caves or deep crevices, and burrows under rocks and logs on wooded hillsides.
- ___ **Weller's Salamander** (*Plethodon welleri*) – (NC-R*) Habitat: High elevation spruce-fir forests.
- ___ **Yonahlossee Salamander** (*Plethodon yonahlossee*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Deciduous forests with many rocks and logs.
- ___ **Mud Salamander** (*Pseudotriton montanus*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Beneath logs and stones or in burrows along springs and seepages.
- ___ **Blue Ridge Red Salamander** (*Pseudotriton ruber nitidus*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Hardwood forests near seeps and streams, floodplains, and by streams in caves.
- ___ **Northern Red Salamander** (*Pseudotriton ruber ruber*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Springs or streams in open or wooded areas.

FAMILY SALAMANDRIDAE

- ___ **Red-spotted Newt** (*Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Small lakes, wetlands, and small quiet streams.