

How To Use This Checklist

The information presented in this checklist reflects our current understanding of the status of the reptiles and amphibians found within Cleveland Metroparks. You can add to our understanding by being a knowledgeable observer. Record your observations and contact a naturalist if you find something that may be of interest.

Species are listed taxonomically. Each species is listed with a common name, a scientific name and a note about its occurrence within Cleveland Metroparks. Check off species that you identify in Cleveland Metroparks.

Cleveland Metroparks Outdoor Experiences Division

Administration (216)881-8141
Brecksville Nature Center..... (440)526-1012
CanalWay Center (216)206-1000
Garfield Park Center..... (216)341-3152
North Chagrin Nature Center and
Look About Lodge (440)473-3370
Rocky River Nature Center..... (440)734-6660
Watershed Stewardship Center.....(440)887-1968

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

C = Common. Widespread and often numerous in proper habitat and season.

O = Occasional. Found at scattered locations or widespread but in moderate numbers.

R = Rare. Represented by a few individuals or has a very restricted range within Cleveland Metroparks.

h = Hypothetical. Occurrence within Cleveland Metroparks possible but not confirmed.

X = Extirpated. Once occurred, but is no longer found in Cleveland Metroparks.

*** = Exotic.** Place of origin given.

NOTICE: Collecting any animal, plant, etc. within Cleveland Metroparks is strictly prohibited, as is releasing any animal into Cleveland Metroparks.

AMPHIBIANS: CLASS AMPHIBIA

The word amphibious means "leading a double life", referring to the incredible metamorphosis of these animals. Most amphibians have an aquatic larval form, with gills. They transform into adults that may have lungs, gills or breathe through their thin, moist skin.

SALAMANDERS: ORDER CAUDATA

Species Cleveland Metroparks: 15
Species North America: 187
Species Worldwide: 342

Waterdogs: Family Proteidae

___ Mudpuppy *Necturus maculosus* **R**; may be more common, but difficult to find

Newts: Family Salamandridae

___ Eastern Newt *Notophthalmus viridescens* **O**

Mole Salamanders: Family Ambystomatidae

___ Jefferson Salamander *Ambystoma jeffersonianum* **O**
___ Spotted Salamander *Ambystoma maculatum* **C**
___ Marbled Salamander *Ambystoma opacum* **R**; one record
___ Small-mouthed Salamander *Ambystoma texanum* **R**
___ *Ambystoma* sp. (unidentifiable)

Special Note: Cross-breeding is frequent among the mole salamanders, field identification may not always be possible.

Lungless Salamanders: Family Plethodontidae

___ Northern Dusky Salamander *Desmognathus fuscus* **C**
___ Allegheny Dusky Salamander *Desmognathus ochrophaeus* **C**; eastern Cuyahoga County only
___ Northern Two-lined Salamander *Eurycea bislineata* **C**
___ Longtail Salamander *Eurycea longicauda* **R**
___ Four-toed Salamander *Hemidactylium scutatum* **R**; one record
___ Redback Salamander *Plethodon cinereus* **C**
___ Northern Slimy Salamander *Plethodon glutinosus* **O**
___ Ravine Salamander *Plethodon richmondi* **R**
___ Northern Red Salamander *Pseudotriton ruber* **R**

FROGS AND TOADS: ORDER ANURA

Species Cleveland Metroparks: 9, +1 hypothetical
Species North America: 100
Species Worldwide: 3,500+

True Toads: Family Anaxyrus

___ American Toad *Anaxyrus americanus* **C**
___ Fowler's Toad *Anaxyrus woodhousei* **h**; hybridizes with American toad; identification difficult

Treefrogs: Family Hylidae

___ Gray Treefrog *Hyla versicolor* **C**
___ Spring Peeper *Pseudacris crucifer* **C**
___ Midland Chorus Frog *Pseudacris triseriata* **R**; generally occurs west of the Cuyahoga River

True Frogs: Family Ranidae

___ Bullfrog *Lithobates catesbeianus* **C**
___ Green Frog *Lithobates clamitans* **C**
___ Pickerel Frog *Lithobates palustris* **C**
___ Northern Leopard Frog *Lithobates pipiens* **O**; may be declining
___ Wood Frog *Lithobates sylvatica* **O**

REPTILES: CLASS REPTILIA

Reptiles have skin covered with scales, shields or plates. If they have limbs, their toes have claws. Their life-cycles are not as complex as the life-cycles of amphibians. Some reptiles lay eggs, while others give live birth.

TURTLES: ORDER TESTUDINES

Species Cleveland Metroparks: 7, +2 hypothetical
Species North America: 56
Species Worldwide: 294

Snapping Turtles: Family Chelidridae

___ Common Snapping Turtle *Chelydra serpentina* **C**

Musk Turtles: Family Kinosternidae

___ Common Musk Turtle *Sternotherus odoratus* **O**

Water and Box Turtles: Family Emydidae

___ Spotted Turtle *Clemmys guttata* **h**; found in Cuyahoga County, but not in Cleveland Metroparks; some released from captivity
___ Blanding's Turtle *Emydoidea blandingii* **R**; small population along the lower Cuyahoga River
___ Common Map Turtle *Graptemys geographica* **h**; found in some rivers in northeast Ohio; some may be released from captivity
___ Midland Painted Turtle *Chrysemys picta* **C**
___ *Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta* **O**; native to southeastern U.S.; commonly released
___ *Eastern Box Turtle *Terrapene carolina* **O**; native to eastern U.S.; status as a native species in northeast Ohio uncertain; commonly released
Softshell Turtles: Family Trionychidae
___ Eastern Spiny Softshell *Apalone spinifera* **O**; found in rivers

Special Note: Wood Turtles *Clemmys insculpta* are occasionally seen in the Cleveland area. These are released or escaped; not native to Ohio

SNAKES AND LIZARDS: ORDER SQUAMATA

Lizards: Suborder Lacertilia

Species Cleveland Metroparks: 1; possibly extirpated

Species North America: 119

Species Worldwide: 4,503

Skinks: Family Scincidae

___ Five-lined Skink *Eumeces fasciatus* Current status unknown; possibly extirpated from Cleveland Metroparks; still found in parts of northeast Ohio.

Snakes: Suborder Serpentes

Species Cleveland Metroparks: 11

Species North America: 154

Species Worldwide: 2,927

Colubrid Snakes: Family Colubridae

___ Northern Water Snake *Nerodia sipedon* **C**

___ Queen Snake *Regina septemvittata* **O**

___ Northern Brown Snake *Storeria dekayi* **C**

___ Red-bellied Snake *Storeria occipitomaculata* **R**;
no recent records; easily overlooked

___ Eastern Garter Snake *Thamnophis sirtalis* **C**

___ Eastern Ribbon Snake *Thamnophis sauritus* **R**

___ Northern Ringneck Snake *Diadophis punctatus* **O**

___ Smooth Green Snake *Ophedrys vernalis* **R**

___ Racer *Coluber constrictor* **R**; may be declining

Special Note: The subspecies called "blue racer" and "black racer" are both found in our area.

___ Eastern Rat Snake *Pantherophis obsoletus* **O**

___ Eastern Milk Snake *Lampropeltis triangulum* **O**

Special Note: The Eastern Fox Snake *Pantherophis gloydi*, has been found in Cuyahoga County, but has probably been transported into the area from northwest Ohio

NOTICE: There are no verified records of native venomous snakes in Cleveland Metroparks. There is one old record of the Massasauga or "swamp rattler" from southwestern Cuyahoga County, but the snake is no longer found here.

Caution should still be used if you find a snake that you cannot identify. Snakes can be accidentally transported from one region to another and can escape or be released from collections. Species not native to the area could be found.

Notes

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A Checklist of the Amphibians & Reptiles of Cleveland Metroparks



Amphibians and reptiles were once lumped into one classification, simply known as reptiles. They are actually two distinct groups of organisms, although they remain closely associated in our minds. People who study them are called *Herpetologists*. Amphibians and reptiles are vertebrates (animals with backbones) and are ectothermic (cold blooded).

Date/time: _____

Location: _____

Weather: _____