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
- Frogs 11
- Salamanders 34
- Turtles 13
- Lizards and Skinks 6
- 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.

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### Amphibians

**Salamanders**

- Eastern Hellbender (Cryptobranchus alleganiensis)
- Common Mudpuppy (Necturus m. maculosus)
- Jefferson Salamanderer (Ambystoma jeffersonianum)
- Spotted Salamander (Ambystoma maculatum)
- Marbled Salamander (Ambystoma opacum)
- Streamside Salamander (Ambystoma barbouri)
- Red-spotted Newt, Red Eft (Notophthalmus v. viridescens)

### Toads

- Eastern Spadefoot (Scaphiopus holbrookii)
- Eastern American Toad (Bufo a. americanus)
- Fowler’s Toad (Bufo bowenii)

### Frogs

**Tree Frogs**

- Gray Treefrog (Hyla versicolor)
- Cope’s Gray Treefrog (Hyla chrysoscelis)

**Chorus Frogs**

- Upland Chorus Frog (Pseudacris f. firerum)

**True Frogs**

- American Bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana)
- Northern Green Frog (Rana clamitans melanota)
- Wood Frog (Rana sylvatica)
- Northern Leopard Frog (Rana pipiens)

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### Reptiles

- **Blanchard’s Cricket Frog (Acris c. creptians)**
- **Eastern Cricket Frog (Acris creptians)**
- **Blanchard’s Cricket Frog (Acris c. creptians)**
- **Blanchard’s Cricket Frog (Acris c. creptians)**
- **Blanchard’s Cricket Frog (Acris c. creptians)**
- **Blanchard’s Cricket Frog (Acris c. creptians)**
Reptiles

Turtles

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

Snakes

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

Lizards

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

Skinks

- Little Brown Skink (Scinax lateralis) u
- Common Five-lined Skink (Eumeces fasciatus) c

- Eastern Painted Turtle (Eumeces a. anthracinus) u

- Northern Copperhead (Agrilus contortrix mokasen) c
- Timber Rattlesnake (Crotalus horridus) c

Suggested Literature for Further Information:

- 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