

An AMPHIBIAN Checklist for South Mountains State Park 26 taxa

Herpetology is the branch of zoology dedicated to the study of amphibians (frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts) and of reptiles (snakes, lizards, turtles, and crocodilians). "Herps" are a diverse and interesting group of animals that are important elements in the fabric of life.

Amphibian is derived from the Greek work "amphibios". "Amphi" meaning 'both' and "bio" meaning 'life' - hence leading a double life. Indeed, most amphibians are aquatic as juveniles and breath with gills. After transformation, the adults usually live on land and most have lungs.

Many amphibians are very sensitive to environmental change. Their diversity and abundance can be an indication of an area's ecological health.

In early spring and during the summer listen for the calls of frogs and toads. Salamanders and newts, however, are silent and can be quiet secretive.

Reptiles, unlike amphibians, have dry skin covered with horny scales. Most, with the exception of snakes and legless lizards, have 4 legs with five clawed digits on each foot. While some amphibians retain gills as adults, all reptiles breathe solely by means of lungs.

Look for these cold-blooded animals on warm to hot sunny days when they bask on rocks, logs and tree trunks. Sixty-seven species have been recorded in North Carolina.

**For more information, contact:
South Mountains State Park**

**(828) 433-4772
south.mountains@ncparks.gov**

Notes

AMPHIBIAN CHECKLIST South Mountains State Park



Seasons:

Spring - March to May
Summer - June to August
Fall - September to November
Winter - December to February

Web Links

Amphibians and Reptiles of North Carolina State Parks
<<https://auth1.dpr.ncparks.gov/nrid/public.php>>

Resources

Snakes of the Southeast
by Whit Gibbons and Mike Dorcas
Univ. of Georgia Press
<<http://www.ugapress.org>>

Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas and Virginia
by Jeffrey C. Beane, Alvin L. Braswell, Joseph C. Mitchell, and William M. Palmer
Univ. of North Carolina Press
<<http://uncpress.unc.edu>>

Reptiles of North Carolina
by William M. Palmer and Alvin L. Braswell
Univ. of North Carolina Press
<<http://uncpress.unc.edu>>

26 AMPHIBIAN taxa

AMBYSTOMATIDAE: [2]

- ___ Spotted Salamander x - - x
Ambystoma maculatum
- ___ Marbled Salamander - - - -
Ambystoma opacum

PLETHODONTIDAE: [14]

- ___ Northern Dusky Salamander x x - x
Desmognathus fuscus
- ___ Black-bellied Salamander x x - x
Desmognathus quadramaculatus
- ___ Carolina Mountain Dusky Salamander x x - -
Desmognathus carolinensis
- ___ Blue Ridge Dusky Salamander x - - -
Desmognathus orestes
- ___ Southern Two-lined Salamander x - x -
Eurycea cirrigera
- ___ Blue Ridge Two-lined Salamander x x - x
Eurycea wilderae
- ___ Three-lined Salamander - x - -
Eurycea guttolineata
- ___ Blue Ridge Spring Salamander x x - x
Gyrinophilus porphyriticus danielsi
- ___ Carolina Spring Salamander x x x x
Gyrinophilus porphyriticus dunni
- ___ White-spotted Slimy Salamander x x - -
Plethodon cylindraceus
- ___ South Mountain Gray-cheeked Salamander..... x x - -
Plethodon meridianus
- ___ Eastern Mud Salamander - - - -
Pseudotriton montanus montanus

HYLIDAE: [1]

- ___ Cope's Gray Treefrog x x - -
Hyla chrysoscelis

BUFONIDAE: [2]

- ___ Eastern American Toad x x - x
Anaxyrus americanus
- ___ Fowler's Toad - x - -
Anaxyrus fowleri

HYLIDAE: [1]

- ___ Spring Peeper x - - x
Pseudacris crucifer

RANIDAE: [5]

- ___ American Bullfrog x x - -
Lithobates catesbeianus

RANIDAE: [5]

- ___ Green Frog - - - -
Lithobates clamitans
- ___ Pickerel Frog x x - -
Lithobates palustris
- ___ Southern Leopard Frog - x - -
Lithobates sphenoccephalus
- ___ Wood Frog x - - x
Lithobates sylvaticus

PLETHODONTIDAE: [14]

- ___ Wolf Dusky Salamander x x - -
Desmognathus lycos
- ___ Seal Salamander x - - -
Desmognathus monticola
- ___ Northern Red Salamander x x - -
Pseudotriton ruber ruber