

## **A REPTILE Checklist for Falls Lake State Recreation Area 41 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:  
Falls Lake State Recreation Area**

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### **Notes**

## **REPTILE CHECKLIST Falls Lake State Recreation Area**



### **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>>



<https://www.ncparks.gov/junior-rangers>

<b>41 REPTILE taxa</b>			
<b>EMYDIDAE: [5]</b>			
___ Spotted Turtle .....	x	x	- -
<i>Clemmys guttata</i>			
___ Eastern River Cooter .....	x	-	- -
<i>Pseudemys concinna concinna</i>			
___ Eastern Box Turtle .....	x	x	x x
<i>Terrapene carolina</i>			
___ Yellow-bellied Slider .....	x	x	- -
<i>Trachemys scripta scripta</i>			
___ Red-eared Slider .....	-	x	- -
<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>			
<b>KINOSTERNIDAE: [2]</b>			
___ Eastern Mud Turtle .....	x	-	- -
<i>Kinosternon subrubrum</i>			
___ Common Musk Turtle (Stinkpot) .....	-	x	- -
<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>			
<b>ALLIGATORIDAE: [1]</b>			
___ American Alligator .....	-	x	- -
<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>			
<b>ANOLIDAE: [1]</b>			
___ Green Anole .....	-	-	x x
<i>Anolis carolinensis</i>			
<b>SCINCIDAE: [3]</b>			
___ Ground Skink .....	x	x	x -
<i>Scincella lateralis</i>			
<b>COLUBRIDAE: [19]</b>			
___ Central/Eastern Ratsnake Complex .....	x	x	x -
<i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis-quadrivittatus</i>			
___ Ring-necked Snake .....	x	x	x -
<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>			
___ Eastern Hog-nosed Snake .....	x	x	- -
<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>			
___ Queen Snake .....	-	-	- -
<i>Regina septemvittata</i>			
___ Brown Snake .....	x	-	x -
<i>Storeria dekayi</i>			
___ Rough Earth Snake .....	x	-	x -
<i>Virginia striatula</i>			
<b>VIPERIDAE: [2]</b>			
___ Copperhead .....	x	x	x -
<i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i>			
___ Timber Rattlesnake .....	-	x	- -
<i>Crotalus horridus</i>			

<b>COLUBRIDAE: [19]</b>			
___ Smooth Earthsnake .....	x	-	- -
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>			
<b>ANGUIDAE: [1]</b>			
___ Eastern Slender Glass Lizard .....	x	x	- -
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>			
<b>COLUBRIDAE: [19]</b>			
___ Eastern Worm Snake .....	x	x	- -
<i>Carphophis amoenus</i>			
___ Northern Scarlet Snake .....	-	x	- -
<i>Cemophora coccinea</i>			
___ Northern Black Racer .....	x	x	x -
<i>Coluber constrictor</i>			
___ Scarlet Kingsnake .....	-	x	- -
<i>Lampropeltis elapsoides</i>			
___ Eastern Kingsnake .....	-	x	- -
<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>			
___ Northern Mole Kingsnake .....	x	x	x -
<i>Lampropeltis rhombomaculata</i>			
___ Plain-bellied Watersnake .....	x	-	- -
<i>Nerodia erythrogaster</i>			
___ Banded Water Snake .....	-	x	- -
<i>Nerodia fasciata</i>			
___ Northern Water Snake .....	x	-	x -
<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>			
___ Northern Rough Green Snake .....	x	x	- -
<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>			
___ Corn Snake .....	-	-	x -
<i>Pantherophis guttatus</i>			
___ Northern Red-bellied Snake .....	-	-	x -
<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>			
___ Eastern Ribbon Snake .....	-	x	- -
<i>Thamnophis saurita</i>			
___ Common Gartersnake .....	-	x	- -
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>			
<b>PHRYNOSOMATIDAE: [1]</b>			
___ Eastern Fence Lizard .....	x	x	x -
<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>			
<b>SCINCIDAE: [3]</b>			
___ Common Five-lined Skink .....	x	x	x x
<i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i>			
___ Southeastern Five-lined Skink .....	x	x	- -
<i>Plestiodon inexpectatus</i>			
___ Broad-headed Skink .....	x	x	- -
<i>Plestiodon laticeps</i>			

<b>TEIIDAE: [1]</b>			
___ Eastern Six-lined Racerunner .....	x	x	x -
<i>Aspidoscelis sexlineatus</i>			
<b>CHELYDRIDAE: [1]</b>			
___ Eastern Snapping Turtle .....	-	-	x -
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>			
<b>EMYDIDAE: [5]</b>			
___ Painted Turtle .....	x	x	- -
<i>Chrysemys picta</i>			