

## A REPTILE Checklist for South Mountains State Park 31 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  
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### Notes

## REPTILE 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>>

**31 REPTILE taxa**

**EMYDIDAE: [1]**

\_\_\_ Eastern Box Turtle ..... x x x -  
*Terrapene carolina*

**KINOSTERNIDAE: [2]**

\_\_\_ Eastern Mud Turtle ..... - x - -  
*Kinosternon subrubrum*  
 \_\_\_ Common Musk Turtle (Stinkpot) ..... x x - -  
*Sternotherus odoratus*

**ANOLIDAE: [1]**

\_\_\_ Green Anole ..... - - - x  
*Anolis carolinensis*

**SCINCIDAE: [3]**

\_\_\_ Ground Skink ..... - - - -  
*Scincella lateralis*

**COLUBRIDAE: [17]**

\_\_\_ Central/Eastern Ratsnake Complex ..... x x - -  
*Pantherophis alleghaniensis-quadrivittatus*  
 \_\_\_ Ring-necked Snake ..... x x x -  
*Diadophis punctatus*  
 \_\_\_ Eastern Hog-nosed Snake ..... x x x -  
*Heterodon platirhinos*  
 \_\_\_ Eastern Milksnake ..... - x x -  
*Lampropeltis triangulum*  
 \_\_\_ Queen Snake ..... x x - -  
*Regina septemvittata*  
 \_\_\_ Brown Snake ..... - - - -  
*Storeria dekayi*  
 \_\_\_ Rough Earth Snake ..... - - - -  
*Virginia striatula*

**VIPERIDAE: [2]**

\_\_\_ Copperhead ..... - x x -  
*Agkistrodon contortrix*  
 \_\_\_ Timber Rattlesnake ..... x x x -  
*Crotalus horridus*

**COLUBRIDAE: [17]**

\_\_\_ Eastern Worm Snake ..... x x x -  
*Carphophis amoenus*  
 \_\_\_ Northern Black Racer ..... x x - -  
*Coluber constrictor*  
 \_\_\_ Scarlet Kingsnake ..... - x - -  
*Lampropeltis elapsoides*  
 \_\_\_ Eastern Kingsnake ..... - - - -  
*Lampropeltis getula*

**COLUBRIDAE: [17]**

\_\_\_ Northern Mole Kingsnake ..... - - - -  
*Lampropeltis rhombomaculata*  
 \_\_\_ Northern Water Snake ..... x x x x  
*Nerodia sipedon*  
 \_\_\_ Northern Rough Green Snake ..... - x - -  
*Opheodrys aestivus*  
 \_\_\_ Corn Snake ..... x x - -  
*Pantherophis guttatus*  
 \_\_\_ Northern Red-bellied Snake ..... - - x -  
*Storeria occipitomaculata*  
 \_\_\_ Eastern Ribbon Snake ..... x - - -  
*Thamnophis saurita*  
 \_\_\_ Common Gartersnake ..... x x x x  
*Thamnophis sirtalis*

**PHRYNOSOMATIDAE: [1]**

\_\_\_ Eastern Fence Lizard ..... x x - -  
*Sceloporus undulatus*

**SCINCIDAE: [3]**

\_\_\_ Common Five-lined Skink ..... - x - -  
*Plestiodon fasciatus*  
 \_\_\_ Southeastern Five-lined Skink ..... - - - -  
*Plestiodon inexpectatus*  
 \_\_\_ Broad-headed Skink ..... x - - -  
*Plestiodon laticeps*

**TEIIDAE: [1]**

\_\_\_ Eastern Six-lined Racerunner ..... - - - -  
*Aspidoscelis sexlineatus*

**CHELYDRIDAE: [1]**

\_\_\_ Eastern Snapping Turtle ..... x x - -  
*Chelydra serpentina*