

## An AMPHIBIAN Checklist for Merchants Millpond State Park 33 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:  
Merchants Millpond State Park**

**(252) 357-1191  
merchants.millpond@ncparks.gov**

### Notes

## AMPHIBIAN CHECKLIST Merchants Millpond 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>>



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

**33 AMPHIBIAN taxa**

**AMBYSTOMATIDAE: [1]**

\_\_\_ Marbled Salamander ..... x x x x  
*Ambystoma opacum*

**AMPHIUMIDAE: [1]**

\_\_\_ Two-toed Amphiuma ..... - x x x  
*Amphiuma means*

**PLETHODONTIDAE: [6]**

\_\_\_ Southern Dusky Salamander ..... x x x x  
*Desmognathus auriculatus*

\_\_\_ Southern Two-lined Salamander ..... x x x x  
*Eurycea cirrigera*

\_\_\_ Four-toed Salamander ..... x x x -  
*Hemidactylium scutatum*

\_\_\_ Eastern Red-backed Salamander ..... x - x x  
*Plethodon cinereus*

\_\_\_ Atlantic Coast Slimy Salamander ..... x x x x  
*Plethodon chlorobryonis*

\_\_\_ Eastern Mud Salamander ..... - x - -  
*Pseudotriton montanus montanus*

**SIRENIDAE: [2]**

\_\_\_ Eastern Lesser Siren ..... - - x -  
*Siren intermedia intermedia*

\_\_\_ Greater Siren ..... - x - -  
*Siren lacertina*

**HYLIDAE: [10]**

\_\_\_ Coastal Plain (Southern) Cricket Frog ..... x x x x  
*Acris gryllus gryllus*

\_\_\_ Cope's Gray Treefrog ..... x x x x  
*Hyla chrysoscelis*

\_\_\_ Green Treefrog ..... x x x x  
*Hyla cinerea*

\_\_\_ Pine Woods Treefrog ..... x x x x  
*Hyla femoralis*

\_\_\_ Barking Treefrog ..... - - - -  
*Hyla gratiosa*

\_\_\_ Squirrel Treefrog ..... x x x -  
*Hyla squirella*

\_\_\_ Brimley's Chorus Frog ..... x x - x  
*Pseudacris brimleyi*

\_\_\_ Little Grass Frog ..... x x x -  
*Pseudacris ocularis*

**MICROHYLIDAE: [1]**

\_\_\_ Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad ..... x x x -  
*Gastrophryne carolinensis*

**PELOBATIDAE: [1]**

\_\_\_ Eastern Spadefoot ..... - x - -  
*Scaphiopus holbrookii*

**BUFONIDAE: [4]**

\_\_\_ Eastern American Toad ..... x x x -  
*Anaxyrus americanus*

\_\_\_ Fowler's Toad ..... x x x -  
*Anaxyrus fowleri*

\_\_\_ Oak Toad ..... - x - -  
*Anaxyrus quercicus*

\_\_\_ Southern Toad ..... x x x -  
*Anaxyrus terrestris*

**HYLIDAE: [10]**

\_\_\_ Eastern Cricket Frog ..... x x x x  
*Acris crepitans*

\_\_\_ Spring Peeper ..... x x x x  
*Pseudacris crucifer*

\_\_\_ Upland Chorus Frog ..... x - - x  
*Pseudacris feriarum*

**RANIDAE: [6]**

\_\_\_ American Bullfrog ..... x x x x  
*Lithobates catesbeianus*

\_\_\_ Green Frog ..... x x x x  
*Lithobates clamitans*

\_\_\_ Pickerel Frog ..... x x x x  
*Lithobates palustris*

\_\_\_ Southern Leopard Frog ..... x x x x  
*Lithobates sphenoccephalus*

\_\_\_ Carpenter Frog ..... x x x x  
*Lithobates virgatipes*

\_\_\_ Atlantic Coast Leopard Frog ..... x - - x  
*Rana kauffeldi*