

A REPTILE Checklist for South Mountains State Park 30 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**

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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>>

30 REPTILE taxa**EMYDIDAE: [1]**

___ Eastern Box Turtle 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: [16]

___ 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: [16]

___ Eastern Worm Snake x x x -
Carphophis amoenus
 ___ Northern Black Racer x x - -
Coluber constrictor
 ___ Scarlet Kingsnake - x - -
Lampropeltis elapsoides
 ___ Eastern Kingsnake - - - -
Lampropeltis getula
 ___ Northern Mole Kingsnake - - - -
Lampropeltis rhombomaculata

COLUBRIDAE: [16]

___ Northern Water Snake x x x x
Nerodia sipedon
 ___ Northern Rough Green Snake - x - -
Opheodrys aestivus
 ___ Eastern Ratsnake x x - -
Pantherophis alleghaniensis
 ___ Corn Snake x - - -
Pantherophis guttatus
 ___ 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