

Habitat Descriptions:

**Pond:** Permanent wetlands, either natural (oxbow ponds, sinkhole ponds) or not (human impoundments). Usually with large areas of open water with pond lilies and other aquatic vegetation. Example: Open Pond

**Temporary Pond:** Wetlands usually full during winter and spring but dry up during the summer. Usually small with no outlet (isolated), and do not contain large predatory fish. For this reason they are excellent breeding habitats for certain amphibians. Usually shallow and grassy, but can be very small ditches. Example: Nellie, Salt Ponds

**Large Creek:** Example: Five Runs Creek, Blackwater River. 30-60 feet wide, with deep pools and heavy current. Large logs and snags are excellent for basking turtles. Some include swampy floodplains.

**Small Creek:** Small creeks and seepage areas, including pitcher plant bogs and steepheads. Good breeding habitat for stream-breeding salamanders and frogs.

**Hardwood Forest:** Forest mostly with non-coniferous trees, such as oaks and hickories. Usually fairly moist leaf litter on forest floor. Often younger forests contain many pines. Depending on moisture, can be swampy or scrubby.

**Upland Pine:** Forest mostly with pine trees, especially longleaf pine. This forest type requires fire to exist, and forest managers are actively managing the uplands to maintain them. Often open, with a grassy forest floor. Includes low pine areas or “flatwoods”

**Open Grassy:** Breaks in the forest, often man-made and managed (wildlife openings, food plots).

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF CONECUH NATIONAL FOREST



Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake

Conecuh National Forest preserves some of the best Coastal Plain habitat in Alabama, many amphibians (36 species) and reptiles (58 species) of this region are found in abundance here.

This forest boasts some excellent tracts of longleaf pine forest, a forest that depends on fire. The amphibians and reptiles of this ecosystem also depend on fire and have adaptations that allow them to thrive. One example is the gopher tortoise, which digs an extensive burrow that other animals, such as gopher frogs and rattlesnakes, use as safe retreats.

The best way to use this checklist is to plan your herpetological adventure; we have included information on habitat and seasonal abundance so you can determine the best strategy to view wildlife. You can also keep track of what you see and make notes, and if you visit the forest repeatedly you can compare your checklists or keep adding new finds to an old one.

You may find something never recorded from this Forest or for this area of Alabama. If you think you’ve found a new record, contact the folks at the Forest Service.

Amphibians and Reptiles of Conecuh National Forest

		Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Open Grassy	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Common Name		Scientific Name												
Turtles														
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i> *		C					+	+	+	C	C	U	
Mud Turtle	<i>Kinosternon subrubrum</i> *		C	+	+						C	C	U	U
Loggerhead Musk Turtle	<i>Sternotherus minor</i> *		C			+					C	C	C	
Stinkpot	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i> *		A	+							C	A	U	
Yellow-bellied Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i> *		A	+	+	+					A	A	C	C
Escambia Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys ernsti</i> *		C			+					C	C	U	U
Chicken Turtle	<i>Deirochelys reticularia</i> *		C	+	+						C	C	U	
Florida Cooter	<i>Pseudemys floridana</i> *		C	+	+						C	C	C	
River Cooter	<i>Pseudemys concinna</i>		C	+		+					C	C	C	U
Gopher Tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i> *		U						+	+	U	U	U	
Spiny Softshell	<i>Apalone spinifera</i>		C			+					C	C		
Florida Softshell	<i>Apalone ferox</i> *		C	+		+					C	C		
Smooth Softshell	<i>Apalone mutica</i>		?											
Alligator Snapping Turtle	<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>		U			+								
Common Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i> *		U	+		+					U			

Lizards and Crocodilians														
Broad-headed Skink	<i>Eumeces laticeps</i> *		C					+	+		C	C		
Mole Skink	<i>Eumeces egregius</i> *		U						+		U			
Coal Skink	<i>Eumeces anthracinus</i>		?											
Southeastern Five-lined Skink	<i>Eumeces inexpectatus</i>		R						+		U	U		
Five-lined Skink	<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i>		R	+				+	+	+	C	C	C	U
Ground Skink	<i>Scincella lateralis</i> *		C					+	+		C	C	C	
Six Lined Racerunner	<i>Aspidoscelis sexlineatus</i> *		C						+	+	C	C		
Eastern Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i> *		U	+				+		+				
Mimic Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus mimicus</i> *		R				+		+	+				
Slender Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>		R						+	+				
Eastern Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i> *		C					+	+	+	C	C	C	U
Green Anole	<i>Anolis carolinensis</i> *		A	+		+		+	+	+	A	A	C	C
American Alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i> *		C	+		+					C	C	C	U

This checklist is based upon collections from Auburn University scientists, as well as intensive surveys by Dr. Bob Mount (1979-1980) and Craig Guyer, Mark Bailey, Jimmy Stiles, and Sierra Stiles (2004-2006).



\* Denotes recent detection of this species (since 2004)  
A = abundant (observation practically guaranteed in appropriate habitat)  
C = common (observed frequently in appropriate habitat)  
U = uncommon (observed infrequently in appropriate habitat)  
R = rare (only recorded one to three times in Conecuh National Forest)  
P = occurs near CNF and probably occurs here  
? = occurs near CNF and may be present here  
X = not recorded recently; possibly extirpated

# Amphibians and Reptiles of Conecuh National Forest

Tiger Salamander



Common Name	ScientificName	Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Open Grassy	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
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Salamanders														
Marbled Salamander	Ambystoma opacum*		U		+			+			C		C	C
Mole Salamander	Ambystoma talpoideum*		C		+			+						C
Tiger Salamander	Ambystoma tigrinum*		U		+					+				U
Flatwoods Salamander	Ambystoma bishopi		X		+								R	R
Southern Two-lined Salamander	Eurycea dirrigera*		C				+				C	C	C	C
Three-lined Salamander	Eurycea guttolineata*		C	+	+		+				C			
Chamberlain's Dwarf Salamander	Eurycea cf. chamberlaini*		C	+	+		+				C	U	U	C
Slimy Salamander	Plethodon glutinosus*		U					+	+		C	U	U	U
Spotted Dusky Salamander	Desmognathus conanti*		C				+				C	C	C	C
Southern Dusky Salamander	Desmognathus auriculatus		X			+								
Eastern Newt	Notophthalmus viridescens*		C	+	+						C	C	C	C
Red Salamander	Pseudotriton ruber*		C				+				C	C	C	C
Mud Salamander	Pseudotriton montanus		P				+							
Four-toed Salamander	Hemidactylium scutatum		?	+	+		+							R
One-toed Amphiuma	Amphiuma pholeter*		R				+				R			
Two-toed Amphiuma	Amphiuma means*		C	+			+				C			
Greater Siren	Siren cf. lacertina		P	+										
Lesser Siren	Siren intermedia*		C	+			+				C	C		
Gulf Coast Waterdog	Necturus cf. beyeri*		C			+					C	C	C	C

Frogs and Toads														
Bronze Frog, "banjo frog"	Rana clamitans*		A	+	+	+	+				A	A		
Bullfrog	Rana catesbeiana*		C	+		+	+				A	A		
Pig Frog	Rana grylio*		U	+								U		
River Frog	Rana heckscheri		?	+		+					R	R		
Gopher frog	Rana capito*		R		+					+	R			R
Southern Leopard Frog	Rana sphenocephala*		A	+	+	+	+	+			C	C	C	A
Green Treefrog	Hyla cinerea*		A	+							A	A		
Gray Treefrog	Hyla chrysoscelis*		C	+	+	+					A	C	C	
Squirrel Treefrog	Hyla squirella*		C		+						U	U	U	
Pine Woods Treefrog	Hyla femoralis*		A	+	+						C	C		
Bird-voiced Treefrog	Hyla avivoca*		C	+		+					A		C	
Pine Barrens Treefrog	Hyla andersonii*		R					+			R	R		
Barking Treefrog	Hyla gratiosa*		C		+						C	C		
Spring Peeper	Pseudacris crucifer*		A	+	+						C		U	A
Southern Chorus Frog	Pseudacris nigrita*		C		+				+		C			C
Ornate Chorus Frog	Pseudacris ornata*		U		+						C			C
Northern Cricket Frog	Acris crepitans		P	+	+	+	+				C	C	C	
Southern Cricket Frog	Acris gryllus*		A	+	+	+	+				A	A	A	U
Southern Toad	Bufo terrestris*		C	+	+			+	+		C			
Oak Toad	Bufo quercicus*		C		+				+			C	C	
Fowler's Toad	Bufo fowleri		U		+	+		+	+		C	C		
Eastern Narrowmouth Toad	Gastrophryne carolinensis*		A	+	+				+			C	C	
Eastern Spadefoot	Scaphiopus holbrookii*		U		+				+	+	U			

Gopher Tortoise



Common Name	Scientific Name	Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Open Grassy	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
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Snakes														
Ringneck Snake	Diadophis punctatus*		U	+		+		+	+		U	U	U	
Eastern Hognose Snake	Heterodon platyrhinos*		C					+	+	+	C	C	U	
Southern Hognose Snake	Heterodon simus		X						+	+			R	
Worm Snake	Carphophis amoenus*		R					+			U			
Black Racer	Coluber constrictor*		C	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	C	C	U
Scarlet Snake	Cemophora coccinea*		U					+	+	+		U		
Mud Snake	Farancia abacura		P	+		+					U	U		
Rainbow Snake	Farancia erythrogramma		R	+		+						R		
Mole Kingsnake	Lampropeltis calligaster*		R						+	+	R	R		
Eastern Kingsnake	Lampropeltis getula*		X			+		+	+	+	U	U	U	
Scarlet Kingsnake	Lampropeltis elapsoides*		U						+		U	U		
Corn Snake	Elaphe guttata*		C					+	+	+	C	C	U	
Grey Rat Snake	Elaphe spiloides*		C					+	+	+	C	C	C	
Pine Snake	Pituophis melanoleucus*		U						+	+	U	U	U	
Eastern Indigo Snake	Drymarchon couperi		?			+			+	+				R
Coachwhip	Masticophis flagellum*		C						+	+	C	C	U	
Rough Green Snake	Opheodrys aestivus*		C	+		+		+			C	C	U	
Eastern Garter Snake	Thamnophis sirtalis*		C	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	C	U	
Eastern Ribbon Snake	Thamnophis sauritus*		C	+	+	+	+			+	C	C	U	
Brown Snake	Storeria dekayi*		C	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	C	U	
Redbelly Snake	Storeria occipitomaculata*		U					+	+	+	U	U	U	
Northern Watersnake	Nerodia sipedon*		U	+	+	+	+				U	U	U	
Banded Watersnake	Nerodia fasciata*		C	+	+	+	+							
Plain-bellied Watersnake	Nerodia erythrogaster*		C	+	+	+	+	+			C	C	C	
Brown Watersnake	Nerodia taxispilota*		C			+					C	C	U	
Queen Snake	Regina septemvitatta*		R			+	+							
Glossy Crayfish Snake	Regina rigida*		U	+		+	+					U	U	
Smooth Earth Snake	Virginia valeriae*		U	+		+		+			U	U	U	
Rough Earth Snake	Virginia striatula*		U					+	+		U	U		
Black Swamp Snake	Seminatrix pygaea*		U	+									U	
Southeastern Crowned Snake	Tantilla coronata*		U						+	+	U		U	
Pine Woods Snake	Rhadinea flavilata		?						+					
Coral Snake	Micrurus fulvius		U					+	+		U		U	
Cottonmouth	Agkistrodon piscivorus*		A	+	+	+	+	+			A	A	C	U
Copperhead	Agkistrodon contortrix*		A					+	+		C	C	U	
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	Crotalus adamanteus*		U						+	+	U	U	U	R
Timber Rattlesnake	Crotalus horridus*		U					+	+		U	U	U	
Pigmy Rattlesnake	Sistrurus miliarius*		U			+		+	+	+	U		U	