

Habitats of Tuskegee National Forest

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

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.

Large Creek: Example: Uphapee, Choctaufaula Creek. 30-60 feet wide, with deep pools and heavy current. Large logs and snags are excellent for basking turtles.

Small Creek: Small creeks draining into and out of beaver ponds; Seepage areas. Shallow creeks only 3-6 feet wide. 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 bring this forest back. Often open, with a grassy forest floor.

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

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF TUSKEGEE NATIONAL FOREST



Pine Woods Tree Frog

Tuskegee National Forest boasts a large number of amphibian (35) and reptile (45) species. It is endowed with many habitat types, from dry longleaf pine sandhills to permanent natural wetlands, offering habitat for a diverse assemblage of these animals.

This National Forest is on the Fall Line of Alabama, a geographic boundary between distinct ecological regions. Due to its proximity to Auburn University, Tuskegee has a long history of amphibian and reptile research.

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. Do not collect native wildlife, it is illegal. Do not release unwanted pets or exotic animals.

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 Forest Service at (334) 727-2652.

Amphibians and Reptiles of Tuskegee National Forest

Amphibians and Reptiles of Tuskegee National Forest														
Common Name	Scientific Name	Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Open Grassy	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Turtles														
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i> *		C					+	+	+	C	C		U
Mud Turtle	<i>Kinosternon subrubrum</i> *		C	+	+						C	C	U	U
Stripe-necked Musk Turtle	<i>Sternotherus minor</i> *		U			+					U	U		
Stinkpot	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i> *		A	+							C	A		U
Southern Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i> *		C	+							C	C		
Yellow-bellied Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i> *		A	+		+					A	A	C	C
Alabama Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys pulchra</i> *		C			+					C	C		U
Chicken Turtle	<i>Deirochelys reticularia</i> *		C	+	+						C	C		U
River Cooter	<i>Pseudemys concinna</i> *		C	+		+					C	C	C	U
Spiny Softshell	<i>Apalone spinifera</i>		C			+					C	C		
Smooth Softshell	<i>Apalone mutica</i>		?			+								
Alligator Snapping Turtle	<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>		?			+								
Common Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i> *		U	+		+					U			
Lizards														
Broad-headed Skink	<i>Eumeces laticeps</i> *		C					+	+		C	C		
Mole Skink	<i>Eumeces egregius</i>		X						+					
Southeastern Five-lined Skink	<i>Eumeces inexpectatus</i>		U						+		U	U		
Five-lined Skink	<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i> *		C	+				+		+	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>		?					+		+				
Slender Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>		X						+	+				
Eastern Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i> *		C					+	+	+	C	C	C	U
Green Anole	<i>Anolis carolinensis</i> *		A	+		+		+	+	+	A	A	C	C

This checklist is based on over 50 years of collections from Auburn University scientists dating from before the forests' establishment in 1959 until today (2009). Habitat and seasonal information is based on a recent survey of Tuskegee from 2006-2009 by Sean Graham and colleagues.

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Brochure prepared by Sean P. Graham and David A. Steen



* denotes detection of this species during 2006-2009 survey
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 Tuskegee National Forest)
P = occurs near TNF and probably occurs here
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Spotted Salamander



Amphibians and Reptiles of Tuskegee National Forest

Common Name	ScientificName
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Salamanders														
Marbled Salamander	<i>Ambystoma opacum</i> *		C		+						C		C	C
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>		C		+									C
Mole Salamander	<i>Ambystoma talpoideum</i> *		C		+									C
Tiger Salamander	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>		X		+									
Southern Two-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea dirrigera</i> *		C				+				C	C	C	C
Three-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea guttolineata</i> *		C	+	+		+				C			
Chamberlain's Dwarf Salamander	<i>Eurycea chamberlaini</i> *		C	+	+		+				C	U	U	C
Slimy Salamander	<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i> *		U					+	+		C	U	U	U
Spotted Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus conanti</i> *		C				+				C	C	C	C
Red Spotted Newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i> *		C	+	+						C	C	C	C
Red Salamander	<i>Pseudotriton ruber</i> *		C				+				C	C	C	C
Mud Salamander	<i>Pseudotriton montanus</i>		U				+							
Four-toed Salamander	<i>Hemidactylum scutatum</i>		R	+	+		+							U
Three-toed Amphiuma	<i>Amphiuma tridactylum</i> *		C	+							C			
Two-toed Amphiuma	<i>Amphiuma means</i>		C	+							C			
Lesser Siren	<i>Siren intermedia</i> *		C	+			+				C	C		
Gulf Coast Waterdog	<i>Necturus cf. beyeri</i>		P				+							

Frogs and Toads															
Bronze Frog, "banjo frog"	<i>Rana clamitans</i> *		A	+	+	+	+				A	A			
Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i> *		A	+		+	+				A	A			
Southern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana sphenocephala</i> *		A	+	+	+	+				C	C	C	A	
Green Treefrog	<i>Hyla cinerea</i> *		A	+							A	A			
Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i> *		C		+	+					A	C	C		
Squirrel Treefrog	<i>Hyla squirella</i> *		U		+						U	U	U		
Pine Woods Treefrog	<i>Hyla femoralis</i> *		C	+	+						C	C			
Bird-voiced Treefrog	<i>Hyla avivoca</i> *		A	+		+					A		C		
Barking Treefrog	<i>Hyla gratiosa</i> *		C		+						C	C			
Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacis crucifer</i> *		A	+	+						C		U	A	
Upland Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacis feriarum</i> *		A	+	+						C			A	
Mountain Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacis brachyphona</i>		U		+						U			U	
Ornate Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacis ornata</i>		?		+										
Northern Cricket Frog	<i>Acris crepitans</i> *		C	+	+	+	+				C	C	C		
Southern Cricket Frog	<i>Acris gryllus</i> *		A	+	+	+	+				A	A	A	U	
Southern Toad	<i>Bufo terrestris</i> *		C	+	+						C				
Oak Toad	<i>Bufo quercicus</i>		X		+										
Fowler's Toad	<i>Bufo fowleri</i> *		C		+	+					C	C			
Eastern Narrowmouth Toad	<i>Gastrophryne carolinensis</i> *		C	+	+							C	C		
Eastern Spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i> *		U		+						U				

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Snakes														
Ringneck Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i> *		C	+				+	+		C	C	C	
Eastern Hognose Snake	<i>Heterodon platyrhinos</i>		P						+	+				
Worm Snake	<i>Carphophis amoenus</i>		P					+						
Black Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i> *		C	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	C	C	U
Scarlet Snake	<i>Cemophora coccinea</i> *		U					+	+	+		U		
Mud Snake	<i>Farancia abacura</i> *		U	+		+						U		
Mole Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis calligaster</i>		?					+	+	+				
Eastern Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis getula</i> *		U					+	+	+	U	U	U	
Scarlet Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis elapsoides</i>		?						+					
Corn Snake	<i>Elaphe guttata</i>		X					+	+	+				
Grey Rat Snake	<i>Elaphe spiloides</i> *		U					+	+	+	U	U	U	
Coachwhip	<i>Masticophis flagellum</i> *		U						+	+	U	U		
Rough Green Snake	<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>		P			+		+						
Eastern Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i> *		C	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	C	U	
Eastern Ribbon Snake	<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i> *		C	+	+	+	+				C	C	U	
Brown Snake	<i>Storeria dekayi</i> *		C	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	C	U	
Redbelly Snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>		U					+	+	+	U	U	U	
Northern Watersnake	<i>Nerodia sipedon</i> *		U	+	+	+	+				U	U	U	
Plain-bellied Watersnake	<i>Nerodia erythrogaster</i> *		C	+	+	+	+	+			C	C	C	
Diamondback Watersnake	<i>Nerodia rhombifer</i>		?			+								
Queen Snake	<i>Regina septemvittata</i>		R			+	+							
Glossy Crayfish Snake	<i>Regina rigida</i> *		U	+		+	+				U	U	U	
Smooth Earth Snake	<i>Virginia valeriae</i> *		U	+				+			U	U	U	
Rough Earth Snake	<i>Virginia striatula</i>		U						+					
Southeastern Crowned Snake	<i>Tantilla coronata</i>		R						+					
Cottonmouth	<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i> *		A	+	+	+	+	+			A	A	C	U
Copperhead	<i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i> *		C					+	+		C	C	U	
Timber Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus horridus</i> *		U					+	+		U	U	U	
Pigmy Rattlesnake	<i>Sistrurus miliarius</i>		?					+	+					

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Corn Snake

