



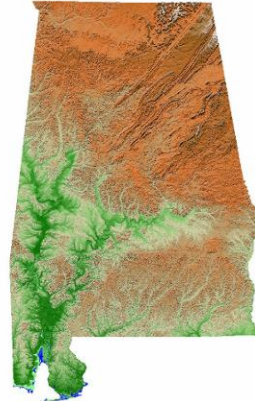
Amphibians and Reptiles of Alabama

156 native and 5 exotic species



State Amphibian
Red Hills Salamander
Phaeognathus hubrichti
Photo Credit: U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior/USGS

State Reptile
Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle
Pseudemys alabamensis
Photo credit: Robert H. Mount



Amphibians – 74 species

8 Protected species

- * Frogs and Toads – 30 species
 - o Toads – 4 species
 - o Frogs – 26 species
- * Salamanders – 44 species

Reptiles – 86 species

21 Protected species

- * Snakes – 40 species
- * Lizards – 15 species
- * Turtles – 30 species
- * Crocodylian – 1 species

Alabama is ranked **3rd** in the country for overall **Reptile and Amphibian diversity**.

Alabama is ranked **#1**, along with California, for the number of species **extinctions** in the continental US.

11.8 % of Alabama’s reptile species are at risk of extinction and **17.6 %** of Alabama’s amphibian species are at risk.

Major threats: Habitat loss and alteration (roads), Invasive/Exotic Species, Pollution, Climate Change, and Disease.

Amphibian and Reptile Facts

- Reptiles and amphibians are “ectothermic,” meaning they depend on external sources, such as the sun, to maintain their body temperature.
 - **The largest reptile and only crocodylian species in Alabama is the American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*)**
 - **The largest freshwater turtle in Alabama is the Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*)**
- Salamanders of the family Plethodontidae are lungless and breathe through the skin and lining of the mouth.
 - **There are 26 species of this family in Alabama**
 - **The largest salamander in Alabama is the totally aquatic Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*)**
- More Americans die each year from bee and wasp stings than snake bites; no deaths have resulted from a copperhead bite in 40 years in the entire U.S.
 - **Alabama has only 6 venomous snake species**
- Turtles have great eyesight and an excellent sense of smell. They have been on the earth for more than 200 million years.
- The Eastern Box Turtle can live for more than a century. A major threat to turtles is the pet trade. A turtle should not be collected from the wild and kept as a pet.
 - **There are three subspecies of Box Turtle found in Alabama**
- Frogs can breathe not only through their lungs but also their skin.
- Each frog and toad species has a unique call.
 - **The largest frog in Alabama is the Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)**
- Contrary to popular belief, toads cannot give you warts.
 - **The smallest toad in Alabama is the Oak Toad (*Bufo quercicus*)**
- Amphibians are *indicator species*, meaning they indicate the condition of the environment. Most species cannot tolerate high levels of pollution.

Global Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Amphibians

- * **5,743** known species
- * **43 %** are declining
- * **31%** are threatened
 - Salamanders are the most threatened group of amphibians



Reptiles

- * **8,163** known species; 499 species have been evaluated
- * **61%** are endangered.
 - 1 out of 2 freshwater turtle species is threatened

