

Habitats of Bankhead National Forest

Pond: Permanent wetlands, either natural (beaver ponds) or human impoundments, e.g. Brushy Creek Lake. Usually large areas of open water with pond lilies and aquatic vegetation.

Temporary Pond: Wetlands usually full during winter and spring but dry during summer. Usually small with no outlet (isolated) and no large predatory fish. They are excellent breeding habitats for certain amphibians. Usually shallow and grassy but can be very small ditches.

Large Creek: Example: Sipsey Fork. 30-60 feet wide, with deep pools and heavy current. Large logs and snags are excellent for basking turtles. Often contain large boulders and flat rocks.

Small Creek: Small creeks draining upland areas; seepage areas. Shallow creeks only 3-6 feet wide with large cobbles. Good breeding habitat for stream-breeding salamanders.

Hardwood Forest: Mostly with trees such as oaks and hickories. Usually moist leaf litter on forest floor. Some forests support a diverse assemblage of trees. Often younger forests contain many pines.

Upland Pine: In dry ridge sites. Often with thick undergrowth of vines and brier and accumulation of woody debris.

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

Rock Outcrop/Caves: Large sandstone escarpments and their underlying limestone layers. Cracks in these rocks, with their moist surfaces and moss growth, are home to spectacular amphibians, including green and cave salamanders.

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST



Red Milk Snake

Bankhead National Forest, comprising nearly 182,000 acres, represents one of the largest tracts of contiguous forest in Alabama. The unique mixture of moist hardwood forests and drier pine uplands boasts a wide variety of amphibians (26 species) and reptiles (46 species). At the heart of the forest, the Sipsey Wilderness comprises nearly 26,000 acres of protected, forested habitat. Green salamanders abound throughout the seemingly endless blufflines of the Sipsey Wilderness. Two species, the Black Warrior Waterdog and the Flattened Musk turtle, are endemic to the Black Warrior River drainage, which finds its source in the forest. Bankhead National Forest also represents one of the only areas where Red Milksnakes, Scarlet Kingsnakes, and Scarlet Snakes can all be found in the same habitat.

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.

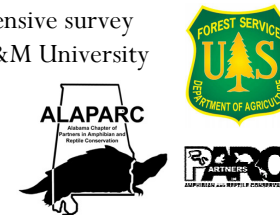
You may find something never recorded from this Forest or for this area of Alabama. If you think you've found a new record, contact the Forest Service at (334) 727-2652.

Amphibians and Reptiles of Bankhead National Forest

Common Name	Scientific Name	Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Open Grassy	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Turtles														
Spiny Softshell	<i>Apalone spinifera</i>		P			+					P	P	P	
Common Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina*</i>		C	+	+	+			+		C	C	C	
Common Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys geographica</i>		U			+	+				U	U	U	
Alabama Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys pulchra</i>		P			+					P	P	P	
Mud Turtle	<i>Kinosternon subrubrum</i>		U	+	+	+					U	U	U	
Alligator Snapping Turtle	<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>		?			+					?	?	?	
River Cooter	<i>Pseudemys concinna*</i>		C	+		+					C	U	U	
Flattened Musk Turtle	<i>Sternotherus depressus</i>		U			+	+				U	U	U	
Stinkpot	<i>Sternotherus odoratus*</i>		U	+		+	+				U	U	U	
Yellow-bellied Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta*</i>		C	+	+	+					C	C	C	
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina*</i>		A					+	+	+	C	A	C	

Lizards														
Green Anole	<i>Anolis carolinensis*</i>		A					+	+	+	A	A	C	
Six Lined Racerunner	<i>Aspidoscelis sexlineatus*</i>		P							+	P	P		
Coal Skink	<i>Eumeces anthracinus*</i>		R					+	+		R	R		
Five-lined Skink	<i>Eumeces fasciatus*</i>		C					+	+	+	C	C	U	
Southeastern Five-lined Skink	<i>Eumeces inexpectatus*</i>		U						+	+	U	U	U	
Broad-headed Skink	<i>Eumeces laticeps*</i>		C					+	+		C	C	U	
Slender Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus*</i>		R						+		R	R		
Ground Skink	<i>Scincella lateralis*</i>		C					+	+		C	C	C	
Eastern Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus undulatus*</i>		C					+	+	+	C	C	U	

This checklist is based on an intensive survey from 2005-2009 by Alabama A&M University graduate student Bill Sutton, as well as collections from Auburn University scientists.



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Brochure prepared by Sean P. Graham, Bill Sutton, and David A. Steen

* denotes detection of this species since 2005
 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 Bankhead National Forest)
 P = occurs near BNF and probably occurs here
 ? = occurs near BNF and may be present here
 X = not recorded recently; possibly extirpated



Red Salamander

Green Salamander



Amphibians and Reptiles of Bankhead National Forest

Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Rock Outcrop/Cave	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
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Amphibians and Reptiles of Bankhead National Forest

Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Open Grassy	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
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Common Name Scientific Name

Snakes

Common Name	Scientific Name	Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Open Grassy	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Ringneck Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus*</i>		C					+	+	+	C	C	U	
Eastern Hognose Snake	<i>Heterodon platyrhinos*</i>		U						+	+	U	U	U	
Worm Snake	<i>Carphophis amoenus*</i>		C					+	+		C	C	C	
Black Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor*</i>		C					+	+	+	C	C	C	
Scarlet Snake	<i>Cemophora coccinea*</i>		U					+	+		U	U		
Corn Snake	<i>Elaphe guttata*</i>		U					+	+		U	U	U	
Grey Rat Snake	<i>Elaphe spiloides*</i>		C					+	+	+	C	C	U	
Mole Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis calligaster</i>		?					+	+	+	?	?	?	
Black Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis getula nigra*</i>		C					+	+	+	C	C	U	
Scarlet Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis elapsoides*</i>		R					+	+		R			
Red Milksnake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum sypsla*</i>		U					+	+		U	U		
Coachwhip	<i>Masticophis flagellum</i>		?						+	+	?	?	?	
Northern Watersnake	<i>Nerodia sipedon*</i>		U	+	+	+	+				U	U	U	
Plain-bellied Watersnake	<i>Nerodia erythrogaster</i>		U	+	+	+	+				U	U	U	
Rough Green Snake	<i>Ophedrys aestivus*</i>		C						+	+	C	C	U	
Pine Snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>		P						+	+	P	P	P	
Queen Snake	<i>Regina septemvittata</i>		R			+	+				R	R	R	
Brown Snake	<i>Storeria dekayi*</i>		U						+	+	U	U	U	
Redbelly Snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata*</i>		R						+	+	R	R	R	
Southeastern Crowned Snake	<i>Tantilla coronata*</i>		R						+	+	R	R	R	
Eastern Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis*</i>		C						+	+	C	C	U	
Eastern Ribbon Snake	<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>		P	+	+	+	+				P	P	P	
Smooth Earth Snake	<i>Virginia valeriae*</i>		U						+	+	U	U	U	
Cottonmouth	<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus*</i>		U	+		+					U	U	U	
Copperhead	<i>Agkistrodon contortrix*</i>		A						+	+	A	A	A	
Timber Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus horridus*</i>		U						+	+	U	U	U	
Pigmy Rattlesnake	<i>Sistrurus miliarius</i>		?						+	+	?	?	?	

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Copperhead

Common Name Scientific Name

Common Name	Scientific Name	Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Rock Outcrop/Cave	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Salamanders														
Marbled Salamander	<i>Ambystoma opacum*</i>		U		+				+		U		U	U
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum*</i>		C	+	+				+		C		C	C
Tiger Salamander	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>		?		+									U
Green Salamander	<i>Aneides aeneus*</i>		A					+		+	A	U	A	
Southern Two-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea arrigera*</i>		C		+		+		+	+	C	C	C	C
Brownback Salamander	<i>Eurycea aquatica</i>		?				+							
Long-tailed salamander	<i>Eurycea longicauda*</i>		U			+	+			+	U			
Cave Salamander	<i>Eurycea lucifuga</i>		U					+		+	U			
Southern Zigzag Salamander	<i>Plethodon ventralis*</i>		C					+	+	+	A		C	A
Slimy Salamander	<i>Plethodon glutinosus*</i>		C					+	+	+	C	C	C	
Seepage Salamander	<i>Desmognathus aeneus</i>		?					+			?			?
Spotted Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus conanti*</i>		C				+			+	C	C	C	
Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>		U				+			+	U			U
Eastern Newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens*</i>		C	+	+		+		+		C	C	U	C
Red Salamander	<i>Pseudotriton ruber*</i>		U					+	+	+	U	U	U	
Hellbender	<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis</i>		?			+					?	?	?	?
Mudpuppy	<i>Necturus maculosus</i>		?			+					?	?	?	?
Black Warrior Waterdog	<i>Necturus alabamensis</i>		U			+					U	U	U	

Frogs and Toads

Common Name	Scientific Name	Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Rock Outcrop/Cave	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Green Frog	<i>Rana clamitans*</i>		A	+	+	+	+		+		A	A	U	
Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana*</i>		A	+		+	+		+		A	A		
Pickereel Frog	<i>Rana palustris*</i>		C	+			+	+	+	+	C	C	U	
Southern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana sphenoccephala*</i>		C	+	+			+	+		C	C	C	C
Green Treefrog	<i>Hyla cinerea*</i>		U	+					+		U	U		
Cope's Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla chrysoscelis*</i>		A	+	+			+	+		A	A	U	
Barking Treefrog	<i>Hyla gratiosa*</i>		U		+				+		U	U		
Mountain Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris brachyphona*</i>		C		+		+	+	+		C		U	A
Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer*</i>		A	+	+			+	+		C		U	A
Upland Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris feriarum</i>		P		+						?			?
Northern Cricket Frog	<i>Acris crepitans*</i>		C	+			+		+		C	C		
Southern Cricket Frog	<i>Acris gryllus</i>		U	+							U	U		
Fowler's Toad	<i>Bufo fowleri*</i>		A	+				+	+		A	C		
Eastern Narrow mouth Toad	<i>Gastrophryne carolinensis*</i>		C	+	+				+		C	C		
Eastern Spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii*</i>		C		+				+		C			