

## Habitats of Talladega National Forest (East)

**Pond:** Permanent wetlands, either natural (oxbow lakes, beaver ponds) or not (man-made impoundments). Several wetlands are the result of indirect damming by forest road construction. Usually large areas of open water with pond lilies and occasional standing dead trees.

**Temporary pond:** Depression-type wetlands, including road side ditches, that fill during winter and spring but dry during summer. Usually small with no outlet (isolated), and without large predatory fish. For this reason they are excellent breeding habitats for certain amphibians.

**Large Creek:** Example: Big Sandy, Oakmulgee Creeks. 30-60 feet wide with deep pools, strong current, and slow meanders with extensive sandbars. Large logs and snags are common and provide habitat for basking turtles.

**Small Creek:** Small creeks draining uplands and commonly feeding beaver ponds. Most are shallow creeks less than 6 feet wide with occasional seepage areas and sandy substrate. First-order streams are typically steeper and may exhibit small cascades across rocky substrate. Good breeding habitat for stream-breeding salamanders and frogs.

**Hardwood Forest:** Forest dominated by oak and hickory mixed with some pine in creek bottoms. Older stands typically have a moist duff layer, while younger are mixed with pine. Hardwood forests are most common in the Talladega along low-lying creek bottoms.

**Upland pine:** Ridgetop sites characterized most commonly by longleaf pine with herbaceous or scrub-dominated understory. Most upland sites are managed using prescribed fire to benefit the endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker.

## AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST (EAST)



Wood Frog

The eastern section of Talladega National Forest includes Cheaha Mountain, Alabama's highest peak. Although modest in height by Appalachian standards, the rugged terrain of the Talladega Uplands provides prime habitat for several species usually found much further to the north, including the seal salamander, spring salamander, seepage salamander, and wood frog. The rocky spine of these mountains includes mountain longleaf pine forests, now currently maintained by the Forest Service using prescribed burning. These drier sites are home to many reptiles, including rarities such as pigmy rattlesnakes, scarlet kingsnakes, and slender glass lizards.

Use this checklist 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 Talladega National Forest (East)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Open Grassy	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
<b>Turtles</b>														
Spiny Softshell	<i>Apalone spinifera</i>		U			+					P	P	P	
Common Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>		C	+	+	+			+		C	C	C	
Mud Turtle	<i>Kinosternon subrubrum</i>		U	+	+	+					U	U	U	
Eastern Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>		C											
Stripe-necked Musk Turtle	<i>Sternotherus minor peltifer</i>		C											
Stinkpot	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>		C	+		+	+				U	U	U	
Pond Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>		C	+	+	+					C	C	C	
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina*</i>		A					+	+	+	C	A	C	

<b>Lizards</b>														
Green Anole	<i>Anolis carolinensis*</i>		A					+	+	+	A	A	C	U
Six Lined Racerunner	<i>Aspidoscelis sexlineatus</i>		P							+	P	P		
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	
Mole Skink	<i>Eumeces egrigius</i>		?								?			
Slender Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>		U						+		U	R		
Eastern Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus ventralis</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	U

\* 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 Talladega National Forest)  
 P = occurs near TNF and probably occurs here  
 ? = occurs near TNF and may be present here  
 X = not recorded recently; possibly extirpated

This checklist is based upon collections from Auburn University and recent fieldwork from Auburn graduate student Brian Lowe.



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Brochure prepared by Sean P. Graham, Brian Lowe, and David A. Steen

Pigmy Rattlesnake





## Amphibians and Reptiles of Talladega National Forest

Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
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Salamanders													
Marbled Salamander	<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>		C		+				+	U		U	U
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>		C	+	+				+	C		C	C
Tiger Salamander	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>		P		+								P
Four-toed Salamander	<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>		P		+								P
Southern Two-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea arrigera</i> *		C		+		+		+	C	C	C	C
Three-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea guttolineata</i> *		C			+	+			C	U	C	C
Webster's Salamander	<i>Plethodon websteri</i> *		A					+	+	A		U	A
Southern Redback Salamander	<i>Plethodon serratus</i>		?							?			
Slimy Salamander	<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i> *		C					+	+	C	C	C	
Seepage Salamander	<i>Desmognathus aeneus</i> *		C					+		C			C
Spotted Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus conanti</i> *		C				+			C	C	C	
Seal Salamander	<i>Desmognathus monticola</i> *		C							U			U
Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i> *		C	+	+		+			C	C	U	C
Eastern Newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>		C							R		R	
Mud Salamander	<i>Pseudotriton montanus</i>		R							R		R	
Red Salamander	<i>Pseudotriton ruber</i> *		C					+	+	C	U	C	C

Frogs and Toads													
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	
Wood Frog	<i>Rana sylvatica</i>		U							R			U
Southern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana sphenocephala</i> *		C	+	+			+	+	C	C	C	C
Green Treefrog	<i>Hyla cinerea</i>		P	+					+	P	P		
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	C
Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i> *		A	+	+			+	+	C		U	A
Upland Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris feriarum</i>		C		+					?			?
Northern Cricket Frog	<i>Acris crepitans</i>		C	+			+		+	C	C		
Southern Cricket Frog	<i>Acris gryllus</i>		P										
Fowler's Toad	<i>Bufo fowleri</i> *		C	+				+	+	C	C		
American Toad	<i>Bufo americanus</i>		C	+	+			+		C			C
Eastern Narrowmouth Toad	<i>Gastrophryne carolinensis</i>		C	+	+				+	C	C		
Eastern Spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>		U		+				+	U	U	U	U

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<b>Snakes</b>														
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> *		C						+	+		C	C	C
Black/Grey Rat snake	<i>Elaphe spiloides</i> *		C						+	+	+	C	C	U
Mole Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis calligaster</i>		R						+	+	+	R		
Black Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis getula nigra</i>		C						+	+	+	C	C	U
Scarlet Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis elapsoides</i>		U						+	+		R		
Coachwhip	<i>Masticophis flagellum</i>		U							+	+	?	?	?
Northern Watersnake	<i>Nerodia sipedon</i> *		C	+	+	+	+					C	C	C
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>		?							+	+	?	?	?
Queen Snake	<i>Regina septemvittata</i> *		C				+	+				C	R	R
Brown Snake	<i>Storeria dekayi</i>		C						+	+		C	C	C
Redbelly Snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>		C						+	+		C	C	
Southeastern Crowned Snake	<i>Tantilla coronata</i>		U						+	+		U	R	R
Eastern Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>		C						+	+	+	C	C	U
Eastern Ribbon Snake	<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>		C	+	+	+	+					C	C	C
Rough Earth Snake	<i>Virginia striatula</i>		?									?		
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>		U						+	+		U	U	U

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Spring Salamander