

Habitats of Talladega National Forest

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 (OAKMULGEE DISTRICT)



Box Turtle

Talladega National Forest (Oakmulgee District) sits astride the Fall Line between the Coastal Plain and upland physiographic provinces, giving the Talladega a unique blend of amphibian (40 sp.) and reptile (57 sp.) species from both regions. Talladega uplands boast unique tracts of longleaf pine, similar to both lowland longleaf forests in the lower Coastal Plain and the montane longleaf found in other portions of Alabama. Lowlands consist of a mixture of sandy-bottomed streams, beaver ponds, and broad seepage areas: breeding habitats for many species.

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 Talladega National Forest (Oakmulgee District)

Amphibians and Reptiles of Talladega National Forest (Oakmulgee District)													
Common Name	Scientific Name	Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	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
Loggerhead Musk Turtle	<i>Sternotherus minor</i> *		C			+				C	C	C	
Stinkpot	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i> *		C	+		+	+			C	C	U	
Yellow-bellied Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i> *		A	+	+	+				A	A	C	C
Common Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys geographica</i>		U	+		+				U	U		
Black-knobbed Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys nigrinoda</i>		C			+				C	C		
Alabama Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys pulchra</i>		U			+				U	U	U	
Chicken Turtle	<i>Deirochelys reticularia</i>		P										
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>		U			+							
Common Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i> *		U	+		+							
Lizards													
Broad-headed Skink	<i>Eumeces laticeps</i> *		C					+	+	C	C		
Mole Skink	<i>Eumeces egregius</i> *		U						+	U			
Coal Skink	<i>Eumeces anthracinus</i> *		R										
Southeastern Five-lined Skink	<i>Eumeces inexpectatus</i> *		C					+	+	C	C		
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> *		A						+	C	C		
Eastern Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i>		?										
Slender Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>		R						+				
Eastern Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i> *		A					+	+	A	A	C	U
Green Anole	<i>Anolis carolinensis</i> *		A	+	+	+		+	+	A	A	C	C
Crocodilians													
American Alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>		?										

This checklist is based upon extensive collections from scientists at the University of Alabama and Auburn University, as well as two intensive surveys: one from 2005-2008 by Leslie Rissler, Jimmy Stiles and Sierra Stiles and an ongoing survey conducted by Wally Smith.



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Brochure prepared by Sean P. Graham, Wally Smith 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 Talladega National Forest)
P = occurs near TNF and probably occurs here
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Loggerhead Musk Turtle

Seepage Salamander



Amphibians and Reptiles of Talladega National Forest

Common Name	Scientific Name	Checklist	Abundance	Pond	Temporary Pond	Large Creek/River	Small Creek	Hardwood	Upland Pine	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Salamanders													
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i> *		C		+			+		C			C
Marbled Salamander	<i>Ambystoma opacum</i> *		C		+			+		C		C	C
Mole Salamander	<i>Ambystoma talpoideum</i>		U		+			+					C
Smallmouth Salamander	<i>Ambystoma texanum</i>		U										
Tiger Salamander	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>		U										U
Southern Two-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea cirrigera</i> *		C				+			C	C	C	C
Three-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea guttolineata</i> *		C	+	+		+			C	C	C	C
Chamberlain's Dwarf Salamander	<i>Eurycea chamberlaini</i>		?							?		?	?
Mississippi Slimy Salamander	<i>Plethodon mississippi</i> *		A					+	+	C	C	C	U
Southern Zigzag Salamander	<i>Plethodon ventralis</i> *		C					+		U			
Seepage Salamander	<i>Desmognathus aeneus</i> *		C		+		+	+		C	C	C	C
Spotted Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus conanti</i> *		C				+			C	C	C	C
Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>		?										
Eastern 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> *		R	+	+								
Four-toed Salamander	<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>		U	+	+		+						U
Three-toed Amphiuma	<i>Amphiuma tridactylum</i>		C	+						C	C		
Two-toed Amphiuma	<i>Amphiuma means</i>		?							?	?	?	?
Lesser Siren	<i>Siren intermedia</i>		C	+			+			C	C		
Gulf Coast Waterdog	<i>Necturus cf. beyeri</i>		C	+		+				C	C	C	C
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> *		C	+	+	+	+	+		C	C	C	A
Green Treefrog	<i>Hyla cinerea</i> *		A	+						A	A		
Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i> *		A	+	+	+				A	C	C	
Squirrel Treefrog	<i>Hyla squirella</i>		U	+	+					U	U	U	
Bird-voiced Treefrog	<i>Hyla avivoca</i> *		A	+		+				A	C	C	
Barking Treefrog	<i>Hyla gratiosa</i> *		C	+	+					C	C		
Mountain Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris brachyphona</i> *		C	+	+	+	+			U			C
Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i> *		A	+	+	+	+			C		U	A
Upland Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris feriarum</i>		C	+	+	+	+	+		C			C
Ornate Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris ornata</i>		?							?			?
Northern Cricket Frog	<i>Acris crepitans</i>		P										
Southern Cricket Frog	<i>Acris gryllus</i> *		A	+	+	+	+			C	A	A	U
Southern Toad	<i>Bufo terrestris</i> *		A	+	+			+	+	A	C		
Oak Toad	<i>Bufo quercicus</i> *		?		+					?	?		
Fowler's Toad	<i>Bufo fowleri</i> *		U		+	+		+	+	C	C		
Eastern Narrowmouth Toad	<i>Gastrophryne carolinensis</i> *		A	+	+			+	+	C	C		
Eastern Spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i> *		U		+				+	U			

Amphibians and Reptiles of Talladega National Forest

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Snakes													
Ringneck Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i> *		U	+		+		+	+	U	U	U	
Eastern Hognose Snake	<i>Heterodon platyrhinos</i> *		C					+	+	U	C	U	
Worm Snake	<i>Carphophis amoenus</i> *		R					+	+	U			
Black Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i> *		C	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	C	C	U
Scarlet Snake	<i>Cemophora coccinea</i> *		C					+	+		C		
Mud Snake	<i>Farancia abacura</i>		P							P	P		
Rainbow Snake	<i>Farancia erythrogramma</i>		?							?	?		
Mole Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis calligaster</i> *		R						+	R	R		
Eastern Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis getula</i> *		C	+		+		+	+	C	U	U	
Scarlet Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i> *		U						+	U	U		
Corn Snake	<i>Elaphe guttata</i> *		C					+	+	C	C	U	
Gray Rat Snake	<i>Elaphe spiloides</i> *		C					+	+	C	C	C	
Pine Snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>		P							P	P		
Coachwhip	<i>Masticophis flagellum</i> *		U						+	U	U	U	
Rough Green Snake	<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i> *		C	+		+		+		C	C	U	
Eastern Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i> *		C	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	C	U	
Eastern Ribbon Snake	<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>		U	+	+	+	+			U	U	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>		C	+	+	+	+			C	C	C	
Queen Snake	<i>Regina septemvittata</i> *		U			+	+						
Glossy Crayfish Snake	<i>Regina rigida</i>		U	+		+	+				U	U	
Smooth Earth Snake	<i>Virginia valeriae</i> *		R					+	+		R		
Rough Earth Snake	<i>Virginia striatula</i>		P								P	P	
Southeastern Crowned Snake	<i>Tantilla coronata</i> *		U						+	U		U	
Cottonmouth	<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i> *		A	+	+	+	+	+		A	A	C	U
Copperhead	<i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i> *		A					+	+	C	C	U	
Timber Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus horridus</i> *		C					+	+	C	C	U	
Pigmy Rattlesnake	<i>Sistrurus miliarius</i>		P										

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Timber Rattlesnake

