



PERRY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN GUIDE



Use this checklist to help identify reptiles and amphibians in your yard, neighborhood and community and submit your findings to Perry SWCD. Pictures and information can be submitted to [facebook.com/muskingumreptilelandamphibiansurvey/](https://www.facebook.com/muskingumreptilelandamphibiansurvey/), iNaturalist app or perryfrogsandsnakes@gmail.com.

Amphibians—This group of animals includes frogs, toads, salamanders and newts. Amphibians are vertebrates with moist skin, that undergo metamorphosis. They are cold-blooded and are typically found in or near water.

Common Mudpuppy—Found in rivers and streams, external gills on side of head, and can grow 8 inches long. Mudpuppies have a flat head with small eyes and mottled skin



Photo: Aaron Crank

Red-Spotted Newt—The only newt found in Ohio, aquatic stage found in ponds. Newts have greenish-yellow skin with small red spots and A wedge shaped tail for swimming.



Photo: Kent Miller

Eastern Hellbender—**Endangered** largest salamander in Ohio, they are found in rivers and streams under large rocks. The hellbender has gill slits on the side of its head like a fish.



Jefferson Salamander— a larger salamander with long toes and small silver-blue specks on the side of its body. Active in vernal pools in the early spring.



Photo: Kent Miller

Spotted Salamander— a larger, chunky salamander with bright yellow spots. Active in ditches, ponds, and vernal pools in early spring. Lay fist-size egg masses.



Photo: Kent Miller

Marbled Salamander— a larger black bodied salamander with bright white to grayish bands. Commonly found in wooded areas under rocks and logs. Breed in the fall.



Photo: Carl Brune

Eastern Tiger Salamander— a large salamander with yellow to orange broken bands throughout their body. These salamanders burrow into sandy, woodland soil. Tiger's are one of the Ohio salamanders that breed in the fall.



Northern Two-Lined Salamander— A small, fast moving and common salamander found in woodland streams under rocks and logs. The northern variety is found north of I-70.



Photo: Carl Brune

Southern Two-Lined Salamander— Looks like the Northern two-lined salamander with tow stripes running behind the eye to tip of the tail. found south of I-70.



Photo: Kent Miller

Long-Tailed Salamander— Pretty, little salamander with a tail more than half the length of its body. orange to yellowish color with black spots. Found in damp areas under rocks and logs.



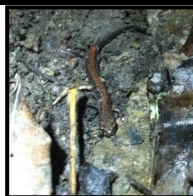
Photo: Carl Brune

Northern Dusky Salamander—easily recognized by the light-colored line which extends from the corner of the eye diagonally to the corner of the mouth. Found in and around woodland streams under rocks.



Photo: Aaron Crank

Eastern Red-Backed Salamander - A small, slender salamander with a wide stripe down their back outlined in darker pigment. Stripe can be reddish or grey to grey-black. found in streams and woodlands under rocks and logs. Very common.



Northern Ravine Salamander— Found in moist slopes of woodland ravines under rocks and logs. Looks similar to a red-backed, but has a plain dark-colored belly. Common.



















Photo: Carl Brune

Northern Slimy Salamander— Dark colored salamander with small spots slimy to the touch. Found in damp areas under rocks and rotting logs.



Photo: Aaron Crank

<p>Spring Salamander—Found in seeps and woodland streams under flat rocks. Red to orange in color with a dark line running from eye to nostril.</p> <p>Photo: Aaron Crank</p>	<p>Four-Toed Salamander—Can be identified by their snow-white belly covered in black speckles. Found close to woodland ponds and swamps under moss, logs, rocks and leaves.</p> <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Northern Red Salamander— This is a larger, red-colored salamander with a stout body and bright yellow iris. They are commonly found under rocks and logs near streams and in spring houses and cisterns.</p> <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>
<p>American Toad— Common in yards and woodlands alike, this toad has 1, 2, or 3 warts in each dark spot on their back and a dark spotted belly. Toads are harmless and do not give you warts!</p>	<p>Fowler's Toad— Very similar to the American toad, but have 3 or more warts in each dark spot. Fowler's also have a single dark spot on the chest and belly. Both species of toads can cross breed.</p> <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Eastern Spadefoot—Endangered - The Spadefoot has sickle-shaped spade on the bottom of its hind feet used for digging into the sandy soil they require. They have a pupil that looks like cross-hairs. Normally only found after heavy rains.</p> <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>
<p>Eastern Cricket Frog— This small frog has warty rather than the smooth skin most frogs have. They are found near ponds and streams and vary in color. Their toes have smaller disks than other tree frogs.</p> <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Mountain Chorus Frog— Similar to the Spring Peeper except it has 2 dark curved stripes that look like reversed parentheses. Found in woodlands except in breeding season when they move to vernal pools or springs to lay eggs.</p> <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Western Chorus Frog—The Western differs from the Mountain Chorus frog because it has three distinctive dark stripes from the nose across the eye, and along the length of the body. Found in wet meadows.</p> <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>
<p>Spring Peeper— This common and vocal little frog is the first to call in the spring. Its identified by the "X" mark on its back and rounded tree frog toe pads.</p> <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Grey Tree frog—This common tree frog is the largest in the U.S. and can change colors from grey-green to pearl-grey depending on the background where it rests. Gray Tree frogs often call before it rains.</p> <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>American Bullfrog— The largest frog in North America, bullfrogs are very common in ponds, marshes and slow-moving streams. Bullfrogs remain a tadpole for several years.</p> <p>Photo: Mark Corcoran</p>
<p>Northern Green Frog—Similar to the Bullfrog except smaller with two pronounced ridges down the sides of its back. Can be greenish or brown in color. Found in ponds and marshes.</p> <p>Photo: Dean Alessandrini</p>	<p>Pickerel Frog—Smaller than the Leopard Frog, light brown instead of green, with two rows of squarish spots running down its back. Favors streams to ponds.</p> <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Northern Leopard Frog— Named for their black "leopard" spots, these frogs prefer ponds, lake margins, and wet meadows for habitat. And are often encountered away from water.</p> <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>
<p>Wood Frog—The most northern ranging of all frogs, Wood Frogs are a brown, red or tan color with a dark mask across its eyes. Found in moist woodlands near ponds.</p> <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Remember, we need your help with the survey! Take a couple of photos with your phone or camera and send them to us via Facebook, iNaturalist, or e-mail to nicole.hafer@muskingumswcd.org</p>	<p>Make sure to download a Muskingum County Reptile and Amphibian Survey brochure at www.muskingumswcd.org and "like" our page on Facebook!</p>

<p>Reptiles— This group of animals includes snakes, turtles and lizards. Reptiles are cold-blooded animals with a body covering of scales or smooth skin. Reptiles all lay eggs on land and do not go through a metamorphosis. When they hatch from eggs they breathe air with lungs.</p>	<p>Eastern Fence Lizard—These lizards have rough scales and are excellent tree climbers. Found in dry, wooded hillsides and rocky cliffs. Their camouflage and speed make them difficult to find.</p>  <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Ground Skink—Also called the little Brown skink, this animal is often confused with a salamander due to its size and smooth scales. Found in dead leaves and under rocks, they have a dark brown stripe bordered by dark brown or black down its back.</p> 
<p>Common Five-Lined Skink—The tail of this fast lizard is blue in young animals. Adults lose the blue color with females being brown and males more of a green color. Found in rock piles, rotting logs and dead leaves.</p>  <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Broad-Headed Skink—Can grow 6-12 inches long. Young skinks have a blue tail which changes to brown as an adult. Found in woodlands, but not common.</p>  <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Common Musk Turtle—Also called a skink pot, this turtle is found in ponds, lakes and slow-moving streams. They have two-bright yellow stripes on each side of their head.</p>  <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>
<p>Snapping Turtle— A large and aggressive turtle found in lakes, ponds and rivers. Females are often seen crossing the road to lay eggs. Use caution with these turtles.</p>  <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Spotted Turtle— Threatened These rare turtles have a black shell with bright yellow spots. Found in marshes, fens, bogs, wet prairies and ponds with thick vegetation along the edge.</p> 	<p>Eastern Box Turtle—The high-domed shell of this turtle has a variety of colorful markings. The bottom shell is hinged. Found in woodlands and seen crossing the road.</p>  <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>
<p>Northern Map Turtle—The shell of this turtle has a pattern that resembles a topographic map. These turtles are found in larger bodies of water including rivers and lakes.</p> 	<p>Midland Painted Turtle— Commonly seen in ponds and lakes sunning themselves on logs and rocks. Shell has red along the underside and the neck and legs have red stripes.</p> 	<p>Red-Eared Slider—A very common turtle found in any waterway. They have a broad reddish patch behind each eye. This turtle is commonly sold in pet shops and should never be released into the wild.</p> 
<p>Eastern Spiny Softshell—These flat river turtles have a rubbery shell with a row of small spines on the front of their shell and spotted feet. They spend much of their time buried in mud.</p>  <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Midland Smooth Softshell—Unlike the Spiny Softshell, the Smooth Softshell does not have spines or spotted feet. Found in sandbars in tributaries of the Ohio River.</p> 	<p>Queen snake—This smaller snake prefers slow moving streams and rivers where it eats primarily crayfish. This snake has a yellow line from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail on both sides of the body.</p>  <p>Photo: Joe Letsche</p>
<p>Kirtland's Snake—This rare snake has a row of black spots along both sides of its body and a red belly. A small snake found in wet meadows.</p> 	<p>Common Water snake —Most common snake in Ohio found around any body of water. Often seen basking in trees and on rocks. They are aggressive.</p>  <p>Photo: Carl Brune</p>	<p>Northern Brown snake—This small snake has two rows of dark spots running down the back. Found under logs, old boards and debris in wooded areas.</p>  <p>Photo: Kent Miller</p>

Northern Red-Bellied Snake—One of the smallest snakes in Ohio, they have a red-orange belly with three light blotches behind the head. They are very secretive, hiding under logs, brush piles and leaves in the forest.



Photo: Carl Brune

Eastern Hog-nosed Snake—This completely harmless snake will coil, hiss, and puff its neck out like a cobra. If that does not scare you away, they will roll over and play dead. They have a turned-up snout for which they are named.



Photo: Carl Brune

Smooth Earth Snake—This small plain grey or brownish snake with very small dots on the back. Found in dead leaves and under logs and rocks in woodlands.



Photo: Aaron Crank

Northern Ring-necked Snake—This little snake has a yellow or orange ring around its neck. Found under Logs, rocks and boards they are Nocturnal.



Photo: Carl Brune

Eastern Worm Snake—This small snake has a pinkish-brown body with shiny, iridescent scales and a small head. Found in dead leaves, under rocks and underground.



Photo: Carl Brune

Black Racer—This snake is a uniform black color throughout its body. An aggressive snake, that often shakes its tail when alarmed and should not be disturbed.

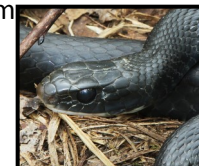


Photo: Carl Brune

Black Rat Snake—The largest snake in Ohio, they are black with a visible pattern and a white chin. As a young snake they have grey and black bands. Found in a variety of habitats and commonly climb.



Photo: Dean Alessandrini

Eastern Milk Snake—This snake is commonly found in woods and fields. It has bands on its body outlined in a lighter color with a black and white checkerboard pattern on its belly.



Photo: Carl Brune

Eastern Garter Snake—This common snake has a pattern of three light stripes on a darker background. Stripes can be yellow, brown or green.



Photo: Carl Brune

Common Ribbon Snake—Similar to the garter snake, but with a much longer tail, nearly the length of its body. Commonly found near water.



Green Snakes—(two species) - These snakes are a bright green color with a white belly. Found in trees and shrubs. There are rough and smooth green snakes in Ohio



Photo: Carl Brune

Northern Copperhead—**Venomous** The only venomous snake in our county, copperheads have hourglass shaped bands across their body and a triangle-shaped head with an elliptical pupil.



Photo: Aaron Crank

Check us out on Facebook :

Perry County Reptile/Amphibian Survey

All Ohio frogs and toads call in the spring to locate one another and identify the location of their breeding pools. Each species has a distinct call which can be used to identify them.



Photo: Brad Prall

Interested in attracting reptiles and amphibians to your backyard? Visit the National Wildlife Federation website, www.nwf.org for lots of great information on backyard conservation for wildlife.



Photo: Dean Alessandrini

BE AWARE of reptiles and amphibians found crossing the road. Please stop and carefully move them to the side of the road in the direction they are heading.



Photo: Carl Brune

PLEASE! Avoid handling reptiles and amphibians and NEVER remove animals from where they are found OR take them home with you. Wild Animals should be left outside!



Photo: Carl Brune

For more information on Ohio amphibians:

www.ohioamphibians.org