

Reptiles and Amphibians of Calvert County



TURTLES (TESTUDINES)	HABITAT WHERE FOUND
Eastern Box Turtle <i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i>	Relatively common in pine barrens habitats, generally remain dormant in swampy areas during the warmer summer months.
Eastern Mud Turtle <i>Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum</i>	Bottom-loving turtle, though likes land. Found in brackish marsh as well as freshwater.
Eastern Painted Turtle <i>Chrysemys picta picta</i>	Basks in the sun on logs or stumps in freshwater pools and brackish marshes, but may wander far from water.
Eastern Snapping Turtle <i>Chelydra serpentina serpentina</i>	Common in freshwater ponds and marshes; also inhabits brackish marshes; Lays eggs in upland areas in the late spring.
Green Sea Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Usually found in high-energy oceanic beaches, convergence zones in the pelagic habitat, and in benthic feeding grounds in relatively shallow, protected waters. Juveniles frequently inhabit Florida waters, especially in areas abundant with sea grasses.
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Found in the coastal waters and bays of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Ranges from Nova Scotia to Mexico and across to Europe, its only nesting beaches are on the Gulf of Mexico.
Loggerhead Sea Turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i>	Frequently observed around wrecks, underwater structures, and reefs; found in temperate and tropical coastal habitats and are sometimes even found in freshwater streams and rivers. The majority of their time is spent in the open ocean, but females do visit undisturbed beaches for nesting.
Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin <i>Malaclemys terrapin terrapin</i>	An aquatic turtle of salt marsh and brackish water habitats. Likes to bask and lays its eggs on dikes and uplands in early summer.
Northern Red-bellied Cooter <i>Pseudemys rubiventris</i>	Inhabits lakes and ponds, clear swift moving creeks, and lower silt-bearing rivers, and into their brackish lower reaches and salt marshes; sun on rocks in the water or on the shore, occupy comparatively deep water. Preferred habitat includes emergent and submerged freshwater plants, basking sites near deep water, and a soft substrate for over wintering.

<p>Red-eared Slider <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i></p>	<p>Inhabit most freshwater systems such as lakes, streams, swamps, ponds and rivers; prefer the quiet waters of marshes, sluggish rivers and ponds that have soft bottoms with numerous basking sites and an abundance of aquatic vegetation.</p>
<p>Spotted Turtle <i>Clemmys guttata</i></p>	<p>Emergent marshes, wetlands, bogs, small ponds, ditches and other shallow water bodies, hibernates in soft mud bottoms of ponds and wetlands during the winter. The spotted turtle breeds in early to late spring and lays eggs in June and July.</p>
<p>Stinkpot <i>Sternotherus odoratus</i></p>	<p>Aquatic, bottom-loving species found in freshwater areas, avoids brackish waters; prefer quiet or slow-moving, shallow, mud-bottomed waters. They are highly aquatic, seldom leaving the water except to lay eggs.</p>

<p>LIZARDS (SQUAMATA)</p>	
<p>Broad-headed Skink <i>Eumeces laticeps</i></p>	<p>Occupies moist wooded areas, high and dry pine and oak forests, cypress swamps, or open areas with shelter provided by leafy debris, often climbs trees.</p>
<p>Common Five-lines Skink <i>Sumeces fasciatus</i></p>	<p>Mainly ground dwelling, but occasionally climbs trees, prefers cutover woodlands with many rotting stumps or logs, habitat usually damp.</p>
<p>Eastern Fence Lizard <i>Sceloporus undulates</i></p>	<p>Rotting stumps and logs, climbs trees.</p>
<p>Eastern Six-lined Racerunner <i>Aspidoscelis sexlineata sexlineata</i></p>	<p>Inhabits hot, dry, open areas in fields, woods, and coastal dunes, as well as in farmland and urban areas.</p>
<p>Little Brown Skink <i>Scincella lateralis</i></p>	<p>Inhabits hardwood and mixed hardwood forests, living in the leaf litter on the forest floor; may sometimes be found in urban woodlots, grasslands, and pine forests.</p>
<p>SNAKES (SQUAMATA)</p>	
<p>Black Ratsnake <i>Elaphe alleghaniensis</i></p>	<p>Found in wooded habitats from New England to Florida and over to Texas. Usually seen on the ground though an excellent climber.</p>
<p>Coastal Plain Milksnake <i>Lampropeltis triangulum tempralis</i></p>	<p>Usually found under rotting logs or stumps, inhabit a variety of habitats including pine forests, open deciduous woodlands, meadows, farmland, and suburban areas, secretive.</p>

<p>Common Ribbonsnake <i>Thamnophis sauritis sauritis</i></p>	<p>Semi-aquatic, seldom far from marsh or ponds. Prefers shallow water, swimming at the surface instead of diving as water snakes do.</p>
<p>Cornsnake <i>Elaphe guttata guttata</i></p>	<p>Prefers overgrown fields, trees, and abandoned buildings from New Jersey to Florida. Climbs well, though mainly terrestrial, spending much time underground.</p>
<p>Eastern Garter Snake <i>Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis</i></p>	<p>Common throughout fields, woods, and marsh edge habitats throughout most of North America.</p>
<p>Eastern Hog-nosed Snake <i>Heterodon platirhinos</i></p>	<p>Open, sandy-soiled areas, thinly wooded upland hillsides, cultivated fields, or woodland meadows.</p>
<p>Eastern Kingsnake <i>Lampropeltis getula getula</i></p>	<p>Generally secretive and terrestrial through likes borders of swamps, swims readily, predominantly nocturnal in hot weather.</p>
<p>Eastern Smooth Earthsnake <i>Virginia valeriae valeriae</i></p>	<p>Most abundant in rich deciduous woodlands, although it may be found in fields, pastures, or gardens where the soil is loose enough to burrow into. Rotting logs and stumps are a favorite shelter, as is trash found near abandoned home sites and barns.</p>
<p>Eastern Wormsnake <i>Carphophis amoenus amoenus</i></p>	<p>Prefers moist earth, usually found under logs, boards, or other debris.</p>
<p>Mole Kingsnake <i>Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata</i></p>	<p>Inhabits mixed pine-hardwood forests, pine forests, abandoned fields, and farm fields, especially areas with well-drained and sandy soils, subterranean and nocturnal.</p>
<p>Northern Black Racer <i>Coluber constrictor constrictor</i></p>	<p>Observed in the edges of forested wetlands, and in pitch pine/oak forests, active by day.</p>
<p>Northern Brown Snake <i>Storeria dekayia dekayia</i></p>	<p>This nocturnal species is terrestrial, secretive, and seldom found in the open. Usually found under surface objects such as boards, debris, logs and rocks in a variety of habitats from hardwood forests, to grasslands; also in early successional stages of abandoned agricultural land, woodlots, and urban areas.</p>
<p>Northern Copperhead <i>Agkistrodon contortrix makasen</i></p>	<p>Often found near rotting logs or piles of debris or found in open areas with higher rock densities</p>
<p>Northern Red-bellied Snake <i>Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata</i></p>	<p>Found in wooded areas, particularly where there are rocks, logs, or other cover; Habitats may be moist or dry, ranging from the edges of swamps and bogs to well drained, rocky hilltops, secretive, nocturnal, and terrestrial.</p>

<p>Northern Ring-necked Snake <i>Diadophis punctatus edwardsi</i></p>	<p>Found under logs, loose bark of dead trees. Very secretive, but can be found Maritime eastern Canada to northern Georgia,.</p>
<p>Northern Rough Greensnake <i>Opheodrys aestivus aestivus</i></p>	<p>Usually seen in most habitats throughout the U.S. and Canada. Semi-aquatic and an excellent climber.</p>
<p>Northern Scarletsnake <i>Cempphora coccinea copei</i></p>	<p>Found in areas of light, well-drained soils, often with pine or shrub oaks. They often hide beneath logs, boards, bark and rocks; burrows in dirt, wood pulp, sandy soil, seldom found in daylight.</p>
<p>Northern Water Snake <i>Nerodia spideon sipedon</i></p>	<p>Found in a variety of aquatic habitats, including lakes, ponds, rivers, freshwater and tidal creeks, ditches, swamps, freshwater and brackish marshes, and low wet areas.</p>
<p>Queen Snake <i>Regina septemvittata</i></p>	<p>Usually seen basking on branches overhanging shallow, rocky streams in agricultural, urban, and forested areas, often with open patches that allow sunlight to reach the substrate, uses loose rocks for shelter and overhanging vegetation is usually present.</p>
<p>SALAMANDERS (CAUDATA)</p>	
<p>Eastern Mud Salamander <i>Pseudotriton montanus montanus</i></p>	<p>Inhabits muddy springs and mucky areas along streams, swamps, and bogs.</p>
<p>Eastern Red-backed Salamander <i>Plethodon cinereus</i></p>	<p>Found under rocks, leaf litter, and rotten logs in deciduous, conifer, and mixed forests, nesting in rotting logs or stumps or in cavities beneath rocks</p>
<p>Eastern Tiger Salamander <i>Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum</i></p>	<p>Breeding habitats include limestone sinkhole ponds and coastal plain vernal pools associated with wetlands. The terrestrial habitat may be bottomland hardwood forest, conifer forests, or open fields.</p>
<p>Four-toed Salamander <i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i></p>	<p>Inhabits bogs, seepages or shallow ponds with moss-covered logs, roots and grass clumps over quiet water, usually found in areas with sphagnum moss.</p>
<p>Marbled Salamander <i>Ambystoma opacum</i></p>	<p>Found in deciduous forests of the piedmont and coastal plain, may be abundant in floodplain forests, but also occurs in upland forests where appropriate breeding sites are found.</p>
<p>Northern Dusky Salamander <i>Desmognathus fuscus</i></p>	<p>Inhabits stream, springs, seepages in bottomland forests and wooded ravines, in both aquatic and semi-aquatic environments.</p>

Northern Red Salamander <i>Pseudotriton ruber ruber</i>	<p>Found in and about clear, cold springs and small streams of wooded ravines, swamps, open fields, and meadows; adult is often terrestrial during the summer months and may be found hiding beneath logs, bark, and stones, some distance from the water.</p>
Northern Spring Salamander <i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus porphyriticus</i>	<p>Lives beneath stones, logs, and boards on the water's edge or among roots and stones embedded in banks and the bottoms of streams and springs; inhabits wet depressions beneath logs, stones, or leaves in the surrounding forest and will not tolerate warm, muddy, or polluted water.</p>
Northern Two-lined Salamander <i>Eurycea bislineata</i>	<p>Adults inhabit margins of small, rocky streams and seeps, hiding beneath stones and logs, may also occur in upland forested habitats.</p>
Red-spotted Newt <i>Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens</i>	<p>Adults live in ponds, lakes, and pools near streams. Efts inhabit moist, forested areas. They continue to be active through the winter, and occasionally are seen moving about under the ice. Terrestrial efts avoid direct sunlight but are very bold, moving about singly or in large numbers on the forest floor during the daytime.</p>
Spotted Salamander <i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	<p>Inhabits bottomland forests and floodplains, but may also be found in upland forests with suitable breeding sites (semi-permanent pools about 1 m deep).</p>
FROGS & TOADS (ANURA)	
American Bullfrog <i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	<p>Occupies larger bodies of fresh water.</p>
American Toad <i>Bufo americanus americanus</i>	<p>Breeds in shallow pools and is mostly nocturnal, and hides during the day under debris.</p>
Carpenter Frog <i>Rana virgatipes</i>	<p>Occupies still water habitats and an abundance of aquatic or emergent vegetation, has been observed in cypress ponds, inbetween swales, tupelo swamps, acid swamps, and canals and is associated with sphagnum mats and other vegetation in coffee-colored waters of pine savanna bogs or ponds.</p>
Cope's Gray Treefrog <i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i>	<p>Found in wooded stretches along creeks, rivers and pools.</p>
Eastern Cricket Frog <i>Acris crepitans crepitans</i>	<p>Inhabits permanent bodies of water with emergent vegetation for cover.</p>
Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad <i>Gastrophryne carolinensis</i>	<p>Nocturnal, burrows in damp areas.</p>

Eastern Spadefoot <i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>	Usually found in areas with sandy soil.
Fowler's Toad <i>Bufo fowleri</i>	Inhabits freshwater and brackish marsh areas, fields and woods, primarily nocturnal.
Gray Treefrog <i>Hyla versicolor</i>	Can be found in dry as well as freshwater habitats, seldom seen on the ground, usually forages in small trees and shrubs.
Green Treefrog <i>Hyla cinerea</i>	Found throughout fresher wetlands, climbs trees (arboreal).
Northern Green Frog <i>Rana clamitans melanota</i>	May be found wherever there is shallow fresh water.
Northern Spring Peeper <i>Pseudacris crucifer crucifer</i>	Occupies woodlands, prefers swamps or wet woods, climbs trees
Pickerel Frog <i>Rana palustris</i>	Common in freshwater and brackish marsh and found in fields and wood margins.
Southern Leopard Frog <i>Rana sphenoccephala utricularia</i>	Common in shallow freshwater habitats and at edge of brackish marsh; may venture away from water in summer.
Upland Chorus Frog <i>Pseudacris feriarum feriarum</i>	Can be found in dry as well as freshwater habitats, a treefrog that climbs very little.
Wood Frog <i>Rana sylvatica</i>	Usually found in or near moist woods, hibernate under leaves or logs in woodlands among leaves.

Sources (all sources accessed on May 14, 2007):

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