

A guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of University Farm

Squire Valleevue and Valley Ridge Farms
Case Western Reserve University
Dr. Ana B. Locci, Director

Prepared by Jacob R. G. Kribel, June 2005

Important notes on this guide

- ❖ This is an introductory guide to the reptile and amphibian species of University farm.
- ❖ It lists the species present or possibly present, and attempts to provide baseline information that will be useful to anyone wishing to learn more about the reptiles & amphibians found here.
- ❖ The physical descriptions are of the most common forms, as there is variation within some species.
- ❖ Make sure you have a good field guide in hand before setting off to discover the reptiles & amphibians of the farm!

Important notes on this guide

- ❖ Throughout this guide you will find notes on the conservation status of species, both in the state of Ohio and worldwide.
 - ❖ Extirpated: A species that occurred in Ohio at the time of European settlement and has since disappeared from the state.
 - ❖ Extinct: A species that occurred in Ohio at the time of European settlement and has since disappeared worldwide.
 - ❖ Endangered: A species in immediate danger of becoming extirpated or extinct.
 - ❖ Threatened: A species that, with increased or continued danger, will become endangered.
 - ❖ Species of Concern: A species that, with increased or continued danger, will become threatened.
- ❖ Currently, there are no reptiles or amphibians of Ohio that are listed as extirpated or extinct.

Class Reptilia - Reptiles

- ❖ Cold blooded
- ❖ Young hatch from eggs
- ❖ Young are “miniature adults”, resembling adults in appearance from the moment they hatch
- ❖ Skin covered with scales, shields or plates
- ❖ Toes have claws (except the leatherback sea turtle)
- ❖ Includes crocodilians, turtles, lizards, and snakes

Chelydra serpentina

Snapping turtle

- ❖ Class Reptilia
 - ❖ Order Testudinata
 - ❖ Suborder Cryptodira
 - ❖ Family Chelydridae
- ❖ Found in any permanent body of fresh water
- ❖ Long “saw tooth” tail, pointed carapace
- ❖ Observed in most ponds and the fields between them; common on property



Source: <http://www.naturealmac.com/archive/snappers/sn.jpg>

Chrysemys picta

Midland painted turtle

- ❖ Class Reptilia
 - ❖ Order Testudinata
 - ❖ Suborder Cryptodira
 - ❖ Family Emydidae
- ❖ Found in shallow water with soft, muddy bottom
- ❖ Scutes in straight rows on back, yellow spots on side of head
- ❖ Observed in all ponds; abundant on property



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Source: <http://www.cortland.edu/herp/keys/images/turtles/cpictalg.jpg>

Terrapene carolina carolina

Eastern box turtle

Species of concern in Ohio

- ❖ Class Reptilia
 - ❖ Order Testudinata
 - ❖ Suborder Cryptodira
 - ❖ Family Emydidae
- ❖ Found in wooded areas beneath logs, most mobile after rains
- ❖ Variable coloration; “land” turtle with high domed shell
- ❖ One sighting near Wade pond; apparently scarce on property



Source: <http://marriageequalityca.org/events/2004/nationalrally/stories/coyote/img/2004-10-14/eastern-box-turtle-lg.jpg>

Eumeces fasciatus

Five-lined skink

- ❖ Class Reptilia
 - ❖ Order Squamata
 - ❖ Suborder Sauria
 - ❖ Family Scincidae
- ❖ Commonly found under or around decaying wood
- ❖ Blue tail of juveniles fades in adulthood
- ❖ One possible sighting reported on the property; likely scarce



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Source: [http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/VHS/Southeastern%20Five-lined%20Skink%20\(Eumeces%20inexpectatus\).JPG](http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/VHS/Southeastern%20Five-lined%20Skink%20(Eumeces%20inexpectatus).JPG)

Coluber constrictor constrictor

Black racer

- ❖ Class Reptilia
 - ❖ Order Squamata
 - ❖ Suborder Serpentes
 - ❖ Family Colubridae
- ❖ Found in woods and fields, climbs when cornered
- ❖ Plain black on top and bottom
- ❖ One possible sighting reported on the property; likely scarce



Source: <http://www.pitt.edu/~mcs2/herp/snake.pics/racer.jpg>

Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta

Black rat snake

- ❖ Class Reptilia
 - ❖ Order Squamata
 - ❖ Suborder Serpentes
 - ❖ Family Colubridae
- ❖ Commonly found in virtually any upland site
- ❖ Black top (sometimes mottled) with gray-white bottom
- ❖ One possible sighting reported on the property; likely scarce



Source: <http://www.bio.davidson.edu/people/midorcas/research/Field%20trips/SREL%20'02/Elaphe%20obsoleta%20-%209.20.02%20-%20SREL,%20SC%20-%2004.jpg>

Nerodia sipedon sipedon

Northern water snake

- ❖ Class Reptilia
 - ❖ Order Squamata
 - ❖ Suborder Serpentes
 - ❖ Family Colubridae
- ❖ Found in swamps, marshes & edges of streams, ponds and lakes
- ❖ Variable appearance, but this is the only large water snake in the area
- ❖ Observed in several ponds; likely abundant on the property



Source: http://rol.freenet.columbus.oh.us/Reptiles_NWSnake.gif

Regina septemvittata

Queen snake

- ❖ Class Reptilia
 - ❖ Order Squamata
 - ❖ Suborder Serpentes
 - ❖ Family Colubridae
- ❖ Found in small stony creeks and rivers
- ❖ Yellow stripe on side, 4 brown stripes on yellow bottom
- ❖ One possible sighting on the property; likely scarce



© John White

Source: http://www.neherp.com/img/jw/queen_snakeC.jpg

Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis

Eastern garter snake

- ❖ Class Reptilia
 - ❖ Order Squamata
 - ❖ Suborder Serpentes
 - ❖ Family Colubridae
- ❖ Found almost anywhere
- ❖ Variable markings, normally have three yellowish stripes on top/sides with black spots between them
- ❖ Observed in almost every area of property; abundant



Source: <http://www.bio.davidson.edu/people/midorcas/research/Field%20trips/SREL03/Thamnophis%20sirtalis%20sirtalis.JPG>

Storeria dekayi dekayi

Northern brown snake

- ❖ Class Reptilia
 - ❖ Order Squamata
 - ❖ Suborder Serpentes
 - ❖ Family Colubridae
- ❖ Found in urban and moist rural sites, though often hiding
- ❖ Brown with two parallel rows of black spots on back
- ❖ No verified sightings on property, but is likely abundant



Northern brown snake *Storeria dekayi*

© Eran Kilpatrick

Source: <http://www.clemson.edu/ccf/Herp%20Images%20for%20web%20site/Serpentes/Storeria%20dekayi%202.jpg>

Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum

Eastern milk snake

- ❖ Class Reptilia
 - ❖ Order Squamata
 - ❖ Suborder Serpentes
 - ❖ Family Colubridae
- ❖ Found in rural buildings, fields, rivers and hillsides
- ❖ Strongly patterned; differs from copperhead in that patterns continue onto head
- ❖ No verified sightings on property, but is likely common



Source: http://www.herpnet.net/IowaHerpetology/images/snakes/eastern_milksnake.jpg

Summary of Reptiles at the University Farm

❖ Class Reptilia

❖ Order Testudinata

❖ Suborder Cryptodira

❖ Family Chelydridae

❖ *Chelydra serpentina* C

❖ Family Emydidae

❖ *Chrysemys picta* A

❖ *Terrapene carolina carolina* S

❖ Order Squamata

❖ Suborder Sauria

❖ Family Scincidae

❖ *Eumeces fasciatus* S

❖ Order Squamata (contd.)

❖ Suborder Serpentes

❖ Family Colubridae

❖ *Coluber constrictor constrictor* S

❖ *Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta* S

❖ *Nerodia sipedon sipedon* A

❖ *Regina septemvittata* S

❖ *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis* A

❖ *Storeria dekayi dekayi* P

❖ *Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum* P

A = abundant C = common S = scarce
P = possible to see, though not previously reported

Class Amphibia - Amphibians

- ❖ Cold blooded
- ❖ Young hatch from eggs
- ❖ Young are in a larval (usually aquatic) stage, and metamorphose into adults
- ❖ Skin moist and glandular
- ❖ Toes without claws
- ❖ Includes salamanders, toads and frogs

Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens

Red-spotted newt, Red eft

- ❖ Class Amphibia
 - ❖ Order Urodela
 - ❖ Family Salamandridae
- ❖ Found in permanent and semi permanent unpolluted bodies of water
- ❖ Bright red spots of variable number and position
- ❖ Observed in wooded ravines and wetlands; abundant



Source: http://www.keiriosity.com/other_pictures/salamanders/notophthalmus_viridescens_viridescens.jpg

Desmognathus fuscus fuscus

Northern dusky salamander

- ❖ Class Amphibia
 - ❖ Order Urodela
 - ❖ Family Plethodontidae
- ❖ Found along the edges of woodland streams
- ❖ Dorsal keel on tail; gray or brown in color
- ❖ One possible observation in wooded ravine; likely scarce on property



Source: http://www.agurola.de/daten_arten/desmognathus/fuscus/desmognathus_fuscus3.jpg

Desmognathus ochrophaeus

Mountain dusky salamander

- ❖ Class Amphibia
 - ❖ Order Urodela
 - ❖ Family Plethodontidae
- ❖ Found along the edges of woodland streams
- ❖ Round tail; stripe of varying colors down back and tail; black chevrons down back; fade from orange to brown as adults
- ❖ Observed in many ravines and streams; abundant



Source: <http://www.brevard.edu/science/MtnDusky4.jpg>

Eurycea bislineata

Northern two-lined salamander

- ❖ Class Amphibia
 - ❖ Order Urodela
 - ❖ Family Plethodontidae
- ❖ Found around the edges of woodland streams
- ❖ Two dark dorsal lines; dorsal coloration is variable shades of yellow
- ❖ Observed in many ravines and streams; abundant



Source: http://www.agurodela.de/daten_arten/eurycea/bislineata/eurycea_bislineata.jp

Plethodon cinereus

Red-backed salamander

- ❖ Class Amphibia
 - ❖ Order Urodela
 - ❖ Family Plethodontidae
- ❖ Commonly found in moist, undisturbed wooded areas
- ❖ Large red stripe from head to tail, though some individuals are solid gray/black
- ❖ Observed in wet areas of arboretum woods; abundant



Source: <http://www.cortland.edu/herp/keys/images/salamand/pcinelg1.jpg>

Plethodon glutinosus

Slimy salamander

- ❖ Class Amphibia
 - ❖ Order Urodela
 - ❖ Family Plethodontidae
- ❖ Commonly found on wooded ravines and hillsides
- ❖ Black with white or brass colored spots
- ❖ Observed in one ravine; likely common



Source: <http://www.tiherp.org/pix/Caudata/Plethodon%20glutinosus.jpg>

Bufo americanus

American toad

- ❖ Class Amphibia
 - ❖ Order Anura
 - ❖ Family Bufonidae
- ❖ Found anywhere relatively close to shallow water for breeding
- ❖ Most are brown with highly warted skin
- ❖ Observed virtually everywhere on the property; abundant



Source: <http://www.cortland.edu/herp/keys/images/frogs/bamerilg.jpg>

Pseudacris cricifer

Spring peeper

- ❖ Class Amphibia
 - ❖ Order Anura
 - ❖ Family Hylidae
- ❖ Found in forests, typically in secondary growth areas
- ❖ Brown with imperfect, dark “X” on back
- ❖ Observed in the field by the experimental pond; abundant



Source: <http://www.kbs.msu.edu/ACWA/natres/natrgrh/frogtoad/speeper.gif>

Rana catesbeiana

Bull frog

- ❖ Class Amphibia
 - ❖ Order Anura
 - ❖ Family Ranidae
- ❖ Found along the edges of bodies of water, prefers large bodies of water
- ❖ “Mesh” gray/brown pattern on green back
- ❖ Observed in the insect, upper and wade ponds; abundant



Source: http://deathvalley.us/amphibians/rana_catesbeiana_1.jpg

Rana clamitans melanota

Green frog

- ❖ Class Amphibia
 - ❖ Order Anura
 - ❖ Family Ranidae
- ❖ Found in shallow, fresh water
- ❖ Variable coloration; green/brown above, brown/gray below
- ❖ Observed in all ponds and several ravines; abundant



Source: <http://www.kbs.msu.edu/ACWA/natres/natrgrh/frogtoad/green.gif>

Rana palustris

Pickerel frog

- ❖ Class Amphibia
 - ❖ Order Anura
 - ❖ Family Ranidae
- ❖ Found in bogs, rocky ravines and shallow streams
- ❖ Tan with two lines of dark, square spots down back
- ❖ Observed in several ravines, ponds and marshy areas; abundant



Source: http://www.herpnet.net/IowaHerpetology/images/Frogs_Toads/Pickerel_frog.jpg

Summary of Amphibians at the University Farm

❖ Class Amphibia

❖ Order Urodela

❖ Family Salamandridae

- ❖ *Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens* A

❖ Family Plethodontidae

- ❖ *Desmognathus fuscus fuscus* S
- ❖ *Desmognathus ochrophaeus* A
- ❖ *Eurycea bislineata* A
- ❖ *Plethodon cinereus* A
- ❖ *Plethodon glutinosus* C

❖ Order Anura

❖ Family Bufonidae

- ❖ *Bufo americanus* A

❖ Family Hylidae

- ❖ *Pseudacris cricifer* A

❖ Family Ranidae

- ❖ *Rana catesbeiana* A
- ❖ *Rana clamitans melanota* A
- ❖ *Rana palustris* A

A = abundant C = common S = scarce
P = possible to see, though not previously reported

References

- ❖ A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America. Third Edition, expanded.
- ❖ Case Western Reserve University Farm Inventory and Analysis. 1983