

Welcome to Smith Mountain Lake State Park

The most abundant creatures in our park are reptiles. Reptiles have dry, glandless skin covered with scales and are cold blooded.

The reptile groups represented in this checklist include turtles, lizards, skinks and snakes. Turtles are the most ancient of all living reptiles, while lizards comprise the largest living group of reptiles.

This checklist will help you identify some of the reptiles in our area. Check them off as you see them and observe their varying behavior without being intrusive.

Remember, nature is best left undisturbed. Leave only footprints and take only lasting memories.

If you have any questions about the animals found in our park, please contact our Park Interpreter at 540-297-5998.

3/2021



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Smith Mountain Lake State Park
1235 State Park Road
Huddleston, VA 24104
Phone 540-297-6066

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1235 State Park Road
Huddleston, VA 24104

Virginia State Parks

Smith Mountain Lake State
Park

Jr. Discovery Series

Reptile Guide & Checklist



This checklist belongs to:

1235 State Park Road
Huddleston, VA 24104
540-297-6066
<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov>



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www.virginiastateparks.gov

Turtles



Painted: _____
Has yellow seams on its back & a dark shell with red markings around its edge. Prefers quiet waters.

Eastern box: _____
Has a domed, dark shell with yellow to orange markings. Usually females have yellow eyes and males have red eyes.



Yellow bellied : _____
Brown & black with yellow stripes. Their skin is olive green with patches of yellow down the neck & legs.

Eastern mud: _____
Small, brown & plain. Spends most its days burrowed in mud & hunts during the night. Lives in ponds, creeks & ditches.



Snapping: _____
Brown & known for its bad temperament. Named for its biting nature & should not be handled. Lives in fresh water.

Lizards

Eastern Fence: _____
Brown & grey with distinct markings. Looks like a miniature dragon. Likes sunny, open places.



Skinks



Five-lined: _____
Named for the five light stripes on its dark body. As a juvenile it has a bright blue tail that can re-generate. Look for them around houses & buildings.

Broadhead: _____
Largest skink in this area. Females are brown with light stripes. Males are darker & head turns red during mating season. Lives in trees, oaks particularly.



Ground: _____
Called little brown skinks because they are brown with black side stripes. Smallest of the skink family.

Snakes

Eastern Rat snake: _____
Juveniles have boldly patterned dark blotches on a gray background. Usually fades to a solid black as the snake approaches 3-4 feet in length.



Eastern Worm snake: _____
Very small snake with a length of around only 11 in. Light brown in color with a light pink belly. They spend most of their lives underground in moist soil.

Red Corn snake: _____
While varying in pattern & color, most commonly have a yellow to orange body with darker orange to red blotches on its back. Very docile snake.



Rough Green snake: _____
Small snake with a green body and yellow belly. Very docile and calm. Prefer to live in trees near a water source.

Northern Water snake: _____
They can be brown, gray, reddish or brownish-black. Highly aggressive when threatened or picked up. Main staple of their diet includes fish and frogs found in lakes, ponds and streams.

