BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CHECKLIST

The following codes refer to an animal’s abundance in suitable habitat along the parkway, not the likelihood of seeing it. Information on the abundance of each species comes from wildlife sightings reported by park staff and visitors, from other agencies, and from park research reports.

C – COMMON
U – UNCOMMON
R – RARE

* – LISTED – Any species federally or state listed as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern.

Non-native – species not historically present on the parkway that have been introduced (usually by humans.)

NC – NORTH CAROLINA
VA – VIRGINIA

If you see anything unusual while on the parkway, please report it at one of our visitor centers or email BRP_Wildlife@nps.gov

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CLASS REPTilia

ORDER SQUAMATA

FAMILY COLUBRIDAE

Eastern Rat Snake (Pantherophis alleghaniensis) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Varies from rocky timbered hillsides to flat farmland.

Eastern Hog-nosed Snake (Heterodon platirhinos) – (NC-R, VA-U) Habitat: Sandy or friable loam soil habitats at lower elevation.

Eastern Kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Generalist at low elevations.

Northern Mole Snake (Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata) – (VA-R) Habitat: Mixed pine forests and open fields under logs or boards.


Northern Water Snake (Nerodia sipedon sipedon) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Wetlands, streams, and lakes.

Rough Green Snake (Opheodrys aestivus) – (NC-R, VA-R) Habitat: Low elevation forests.

Smooth Green Snake (Opheodrys vernalis) – (VA-R) Habitat: Moist, open woodlands or herbaceous wetlands under fallen debris.

Northern Pine Snake (Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus) – (VA-R) Habitat: Abandoned fields and dry mountain ridges with sandier soils.

Queen Snake (Regina septemvittata) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Rocky streams and rivers at lower altitudes.

Northern Brown Snake (Storeria dekayi dekayi) – (NC-R, VA-R) Habitat: Wetlands; moist woods and hillsides.

Red-bellied Snake (Storeria occipitomaculata) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Open deciduous and pine forests, swamp edges, and woody developed areas.

Eastern Ribbon Snake (Thamnophis sauritus) – (NC-R, VA-U) Habitat: Damp meadows, marshes, and along streams.

Eastern Garter Snake (Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Generalist.

FAMILY DACTYLOIDAE

Green Anole (Anolis carolinensis) – (NC-R) Habitat: Habitat generalist; in trees and shrubs or fences and walls in developed areas.

FAMILY PHRYNOSOMATIDAE

Eastern Fence Lizard (Sceloporus undulatus) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Lower elevation open pine and mixed woods, building sites, and fences.
FAMILY SCINCIDAE

- **Northern Coal Skink (Plestiodon anthracinus anthracinus)** – (NC-R, VA-R) Habitat: Rocky, wooded areas.
- **Common Five-lined Skink (Plestiodon fasciatus)** – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Moist, wooded areas.
- **Southeastern Five-lined Skink (Plestiodon inexpectatus)** – (VA-R) Habitat: Drier forests of pines or mixed hardwoods and around buildings.
- **Broad-headed Skink (Plestiodon laticeps)** – (NC-R, VA-R) Habitat: Wooded areas with large spreading trees at lower elevations.
- **Little Brown Skink (Scincella lateralis)** – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Disturbed areas and open woodlands at lower elevations.

FAMILY TEIIDAE

- **Six-lined Racerunner (Aspidoscelis sexlineata)** – (VA-R) Habitat: Open, well-drained areas with loose soils and scattered vegetation.

FAMILY VIPERIDAE

- **Northern Copperhead (Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen)** – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Woodlands.
- **Timber Rattlesnake (Crotalus horridus)** – (NC-U*, VA-U) Habitat: Rocky hillsides, fields bordered by forests, and low elevation pines.

ORDER TESTUDINES

FAMILY CHELYDRIDAE

- **Snapping Turtle (Chelydra serpentina)** – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Aquatic habitat generalist.

FAMILY EMYDIDAE

- **Eastern Painted Turtle (Chrysemys picta picta)** – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Marshes, lakes, and ponds.
- **Spotted Turtle (Clemmys guttata)** – (VA-U) Habitat: Very slow moving, shallow water with lots of vegetation.
- **Bog Turtle (Glyptemys muhlenbergii)** – (NC-R*, VA-R*) Habitat: Wet fields and bogs.
- **Eastern River Cooter (Pseudemys concinna concinna)** – (VA-U) Habitat: Large slow moving rivers and streams with exposed areas for basking.

CLASS AMPHIBIA

ORDER ANURA

FAMILY BUOONIDAE

- **American Toad (Anaxyrus americanus)** – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Habitat generalist.
- **Fowler’s Toad (Anaxyrus fowleri)** – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Habitat generalist.

FAMILY HYLIIDAE

- **Eastern Cricket Frog (Acris crepitans)** – (NC-U, VA-C) Habitat: Open grassy margins of ponds and streams.

ORDER CAUDATA

FAMILY AMBYSTOMATIDAE

- **Jefferson Salamander (Ambystoma jeffersonianum)** – (VA-R) Habitat: Moist, well-drained deciduous forests with breeding ponds.
- **Spotted Salamander (Ambystoma maculatum)** – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Forested areas with vernal ponds or temporary wetlands.
- **Eastern Tiger Salamander (Ambystoma tigrinum)** – (VA-R*) Habitat: Wooded or unwooded areas with light to sandy soils.

FAMILY CRYPTOBRANCHIDAE

- **Eastern Hellbender (Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis)** – (NC-R*, VA-R*) Habitat: Large, clean, and fast flowing streams with big flat rocks.
**FAMILY PLETHODONTIDAE**

**Carolina Mountain Dusky Salamander**  
(*Desmognathus carolinensis*) – (NC-C) Habitat: Seeps, wet rock faces, and forest floor habitats near streams.

**Northern Dusky Salamander**  
(*Desmognathus fuscus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Edges of small woodland streams, springs, and seeps.

**Imitator Salamander**  
(*Desmognathus imitator*) – (NC-R) Habitat: Wet rock faces, seeps, streams, and forest floor near streams.

**Shovel-nosed Salamander**  
(*Desmognathus marmoratus*) – (NC-C) Habitat: Brooks, streams, or rills with gravel and rocks.

**Seal Salamander**  
(*Desmognathus monticola*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Hardwood forests near small to moderate sized rocky streams.

**Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander**  
(*Desmognathus ochrophaeus*) – (VA-C) Habitat: Wet rock faces, seeps, streams, and forest floor habitats near streams.

**Ocoee Salamander**  
(*Desmognathus ocoee*) – (NC-C) Habitat: Wet rock faces, seeps, and forest floors near streams.

**Blue Ridge Dusky Salamander**  
(*Desmognathus orestes*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Wet rock faces, seeps, streams, and near streams.

**Black-bellied Salamander**  
(*Desmognathus quadramaculatus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Boulder-strewn brooks, waterfalls, and areas where water drips or flows.

**Santeetlah Dusky Salamander**  
(*Desmognathus santeetlah*) – (NC-U) Habitat: Edges of small woodland streams, springs, and seeps.

**Northern Pygmy Salamander**  
(*Desmognathus organi*) – (NC-U) Habitat: Hardwood forests under moss, leaf litter, rotten logs, or in seeps.

**Pygmy Salamander**  
(*Desmognathus wrighti*) – (NC-U) Habitat: Under moss, leaf litter, rotten wood, or rocks in spruce-fir forests.

**Northern Two-lined Salamander**  
(*Eurycea bislineata*) – (VA-C) Habitat: Seeps and streams in hardwood forests and swamps.

**Southern Two-lined Salamander**  
(*Eurycea cirrigera*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Seeps and streams in hardwood forests and swamps.

**Three-lined Salamander**  
(*Eurycea guttolineata*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Shaded seeps, bogs, streams, or vernal ponds in hardwood forests.

**Long-tailed Salamander**  
(*Eurycea longicauda*) – (NC-R*, VA-U) Habitat: Near shaded seeps or streams and sometimes forested areas.

**Cave Salamander**  
(*Eurycea lucifuga*) – (VA-R) Habitat: Usually cave entrances but occasionally wooded areas under rocks or logs near water.

**Blue Ridge Two-lined Salamander**  
(*Eurycea wilderae*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Seeps, and streams in hardwood forests and swamps.

**Spring Salamander**  
(*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Springs and other small, cold, rocky streams.

**Four-toed Salamander**  

**Eastern Red-backed Salamander**  
(*Plethodon cinereus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Under rocks, leaf litter, and rotten logs in forests.

**White-spotted Slimy Salamander**  
(*Plethodon clyndraceus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Moist woodland habitats not susceptible to flooding.

**Northern Slimy Salamander**  
(*Plethodon glutinosus*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Slopes, ravines, or floodplains in hardwoods or pines.

**Valley and Ridge Salamander**  
(*Plethodon hoffmani*) – (VA-U) Habitat: In deciduous or mixed hardwood forests under logs and rocks.

**Peaks of Otter Salamander**  
(*Plethodon hudsoni*) – (VA-U) Habitat: Moist forest floors at higher elevations.

**Red-cheeked Salamander**  
(*Plethodon jordani*) – (NC-C) Habitat: Moist mature hardwood forests under moss and rotting logs.

**Southern Gray-cheeked Salamander**  
(*Plethodon metcalfi*) – (NC-C) Habitat: Forest floors with lots of rocks and logs.

**Northern Gray-cheeked Salamander**  
(*Plethodon montanus*) – (NC-U) Habitat: Moist hardwood/mixed forests under leaf litter, logs, or rocks.

**Southern Ravine Salamander**  

**Southern Red-backed Salamander**  
(*Plethodon serratus*) – (NC-U) Habitat: Under rocks, leaf litter, and rotten logs in forests.

**Big Levels Salamander**  

**Southern Appalachian Salamander**  
(*Plethodon tennesseae*) – (NC-U) Habitat: Deciduous forests with rocks and logs.

**Wehrle’s Salamander**  
(*Plethodon wehrlei*) – (NC-R*, VA-R) Habitat: Upland forests, entrances to caves or deep crevices, and burrows under rocks and logs on wooded hillsides.

**Weller’s Salamander**  
(*Plethodon welleri*) – (NC-R*) Habitat: High elevation spruce-fir forests.

**Yonahlossee Salamander**  
(*Plethodon yonahlossee*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Deciduous forests with many rocks and logs.

**Mud Salamander**  
(*Pseudotriton montanus*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Beneath logs and stones or in burrows along springs and seepages.

**Blue Ridge Red Salamander**  
(*Pseudotriton ruber nitisus*) – (NC-U, VA-U) Habitat: Hardwood forests near seeps and streams, floodplains, and by streams in caves.

**Northern Red Salamander**  
(*Pseudotriton ruber ruber*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Springs or streams in open or wooded areas.

**FAMILY SALAMANDRIDAE**

**Red-spotted Newt**  
(*Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens*) – (NC-C, VA-C) Habitat: Small lakes, wetlands, and small quiet streams.