



Full Species List of Reptiles

Twenty-six species of reptiles are found in Shenandoah National Park, including 19 snakes, four turtles, one lizard, and two skinks. Most of these animals are terrestrial, but a few species, such as the northern water snake (*Nerodia sipedon*), the snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), and the painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*), can be found in aquatic ecosystems. Snakes and lizards can be observed in a wide variety of habitats, but are most likely to be seen in sunny locations such as meadows, forest openings, and trail and road margins. Two venomous snakes are found in Shenandoah: the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) and the copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*). Although these snakes are generally not aggressive, visitors should give them a wide berth and leave them unmolested. Of the park's turtle species, the eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) is most likely to be seen by park visitors, and can be found in both forest and meadow habitats.

The fear of snakes that many people have results in large numbers of them being killed each year. Others, including turtles, perish from motor vehicle activity along Skyline Drive. Illegal collecting (poaching) of certain species, such as timber rattlesnakes or box turtles, accounts for additional losses.

This checklist was compiled on March 10, 2015 using data exported from the National Park Service NPSpecies database. The database can be accessed at <https://irma.nps.gov/NPSpecies/>. Here you will find search tools that make it possible to create updated or customized lists. This checklist and others are found at <https://irma.nps.gov/NPSpecies/Search/SpeciesList/SHEN>. Lists are currently available for the following: mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, plants (complete list), trees and shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, and grasses. Please be advised that Latin scientific names often change as a result of new research; therefore, scientific names used here may not reflect the most current accepted nomenclature.



Terrapene carolina



Crotalus horridus



Nerodia sipedon



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Bookmark this report: [https://irma.nps.gov/NPSpecies/Reports/Park/Species List/SHEN?](https://irma.nps.gov/NPSpecies/Reports/Park/Species%20List/SHEN?UnitCode=SHEN&CategoryCode=4&SortOrder=Sci&ShowSynonyms=False&ShowInReview=False)
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This report is filtered by the following Taxonomic Categories: Reptiles

Scientific Name	Common Names	Occ	Abd	Nat	NPS Tags	Park Tags	GRank	SRank
Reptiles								
<i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i>	Copperhead	P	C	N	MP; B	CU, MF, RO	G5	VA: S5
<i>Carphophis amoenus</i>	Eastern Wormsnake	P	Uc	N	B	MF	G5	VA: S5
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Snapping Turtle	P	Uc	N	R	ME, WL	G5	VA: S5
<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Painted Turtle	P	Uc	N	R	WL	G5	VA: S5
<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	Spotted Turtle	P	R	N	R	ME, MF, WL	G5	VA: S4
<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Black Racer	P	Uc	N	B	PW	G5	VA: S5
<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Timber Rattlesnake	P	C	N	EC, MP; B	PW	G4	VA: S4
<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	Ringneck Snake	P	C	N	B	MF	G5	VA: S5
<i>Elaphe alleghaniensis</i>	Eastern Ratsnake	P	C	N	MP; B	CU, ME, MF		
<i>Elaphe guttata</i>	Cornsnake	P	Uc	N	B	CU, ME		
<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i>	Five-lined Skink	P	R	N	B	MF		
<i>Eumeces laticeps</i>	Broad-headed Skink	P	Uc	N		CU, MF, XF		
<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	Eastern Hog-nosed Snake	P	Uc	N	R	ME, XF	G5	VA: S5
<i>Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata</i>	Mole Kingsnake	P	U	N	B	CU, ME	G5T5	
<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>	Common Kingsnake	P	U	N	B	PW	G5	VA: S5
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	Milksnake	P	Uc	N	B	CU, ME, MF, RO	G5	VA: S5
<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>	Northern Water Snake	P	C	N	B	AQ, WL	G5	VA: S5
<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>	Rough Greensnake	P	Uc	N	MP; B	MF	G5	VA: S5
<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>	Smooth Greensnake	P	R	N	MP; B	ME, RO	G5	VA: S3
<i>Regina septemvittata</i>	Queen Snake	PP		N		AQ, WL	G5	VA: S5
<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>	Eastern Fence Lizard	P	C	N	B	CU, MF, RO, XF	G5	VA: S5
<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>	Red-Bellied Snake	P	C	N	B	CU, MF, WL, XF	G5	VA: S5
<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	P	C	N	B	ME, MF, XF	G5	VA: S4
<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>	Common Ribbonsnake	P	Uc	N	B	WL	G5	VA: S5
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Common Garter Snake	P	C	N	B	PW	G5	VA: S5
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake	PP		N		CU, ME, MF	G5	VA: S5



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Report Species Count: 26

NPSpecies - The National Park Service biodiversity database. IRMA Portal version. <https://irma.nps.gov/npspecies/>. Accessed 6/23/2015 2:20:05 PM

Key

	Code	Term	Definition
Occurrence (Occ)	P	Present	Species occurs in park; current, reliable evidence available.
	PP	Probably Present	High confidence species occurs in park but current, verified evidence needed.
	Un	Unconfirmed	Species is attributed to park but evidence is weak or absent.
	NP	Not In Park	Species is not known to occur in park.
Occurrence Tags	A	Adjacent	Species is known to occur in areas near to or contiguous with park boundaries.
	FR	False Report	Species was reported to occur within the park, but current evidence indicates the report was based on misidentification, a taxonomic concept no longer accepted, or other similar problem of error or interpretation.
	H	Historical	Species' historical occurrence in park is documented. Assigned based on judgment as opposed to determination based on age of the most recent evidence.
Abundance (Abd)	A	Abundant	Animals: May be seen daily, in suitable habitat and season, and counted in relatively large numbers. Plants, Chromista, Protozoa, and Fungi: Large number of individuals; wide ecological amplitude or occurring in habitats covering a large portion of the park
	C	Common	Animals: May be seen daily, in suitable habitat and season, but not in large numbers. Plants, Chromista, Protozoa, and Fungi: Large numbers of individuals predictably occurring in commonly encountered habitats but not those covering a large portion of the park
	Uc	Uncommon	Animals: Likely to be seen monthly in appropriate habitat and season. May be locally common. Plants, Chromista, Protozoa, and Fungi: Few to moderate numbers of individuals; occurring either sporadically in commonly encountered habitats or in uncommon habitats
	R	Rare	Animals: Present, but usually seen only a few times each year. Plants, Chromista, Protozoa, and Fungi: Few individuals, usually restricted to small areas of rare habitat
	O	Occasional	Animals: Occurs in the park at least once every few years, varying in numbers, but not necessarily every year. Plants, Chromista, Protozoa, and Fungi: Abundance variable from year to year (e.g., desert plants)
	U	Unknown	Abundance unknown
Nativeness (Nat)	N	Native	Species naturally occurring in park or region.
	Nn	Non-native	Species occurring on park lands as a result of deliberate or accidental human activities.
	U	Unknown	Nativeness status is unknown or ambiguous.
Nativeness Tags	R	Restoration	Also refers to reintroductions. Native species that has been extirpated or substantially diminished from the park as a result of human-induced change, and that has been or is in the process of being restored.



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Nativeness Tags	C	Cultivated	Species has been introduced or is maintained as part of the park's mission, significance, or cultural landscape (e.g., orchards, crops, fields)
	I	Invasive	Non-native species whose introduction is likely to cause economic or environmental harm.
	N	Noxious	Designation by a governmental authority. Species grows aggressively and has broad environmental tolerance that allows it to establish in many locations.
Management Tags	EC	Exploitation Concern	Species is considered a target for collection, poaching, commercial harvesting, or other non-permitted or exploitative activities.
	MP	Management Priority	Species warrants particular management attention as determined by park management staff.
Seasonality Tags	B	Breeder	Population reproduces in the park.
	R	Resident	A significant population is maintained in the park but does not breed within park boundaries.
	M	Migratory	Species occurs in the park only while in transition between breeding and wintering grounds.
	S	Summer	Typically spending only summer months in the park.
	W	Winter	Typically spending only winter months in the park.
	V	Vagrant	Park is outside of species' usual range.

ParkTags	Code	Term	Definition
Vegetation Life Form	Form		
	Tr	Tree	Tree
	Sh	Shrub	Shrub
	Vi	Vine	Vine
	He	Herb	Herb
	Gr	Graminoid	Graminoid (grass)
	Fe	Fern	Fern
	Ly	Lycopod	Lycopod
Habitat	Hab		
	AQ	Aquatic	Within rivers, streams and ponds
	CU	Cultural	Planted by humans, either by pre-park residents or park employees/contractors
	FE	Forest Edge	Forest borders and field margins
	ME	Meadow	Meadows, fields, lawns, forest clearings, and ruderal habitats
	MF	Mesic forest	Mesic and dry-mesic forests; represents a majority of park's forested area
	RO	Rock outcrop	Exposed and shaded outcrops, boulder fields, talus slopes, and rocky barrens
	SS	Shrub/Scrub	Second growth forest and habitats dominated by shrubs
	WL	Wetland	Riparian areas, seeps, springs, fens, swamps, and wetland hummocks
	XF	Xeric forest	Dry forests, including heath woodlands and shrublands
PW	Park wide	Park wide	



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Seasons when the species is most easily encountered.	Seas		
	Sp	Spring	Spring (Mar, Apr, May)
	Su	Summer	Summer (Jun, Jul, Aug)
	Fa	Fall	Fall (Sept, Oct)
	Wi	Winter	Winter (Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb)
	All	All Year	All Year Round

GRank and SRank information is provided by NatureServe (www.natureserve.org) and its network of natural heritage member programs, a leading source of information about rare and endangered species, and threatened ecosystems.