



# Amphibians and Reptiles in Massachusetts

## Amphibians

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Distribution
Mudpuppy	<i>Necturus maculosus</i>	Caudata: Necturidae (Mudpuppies and Waterdogs)	Introduced to the Connecticut River drainage in Amherst prior to 1936. However, these are records from the Connecticut River in Connecticut as early as 1875. Also reported from a few lakes in southern Berkshire County. Occur naturally in Lake Champlain in Vermont and in the Hudson River, but were probably introduced to the western Massachusetts locales.
Jefferson Salamander*	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	Caudata: Ambystomatidae (Mole Salamanders)	Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and western Worcester counties. Listed as a species of special concern.
Blue-spotted Salamander*	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>	Caudata: Ambystomatidae (Mole Salamanders)	Bristol, Plymouth, Norfolk, Suffolk, Middlesex, and Essex counties; eastern and southern Worcester County; eastern Hampden and Hampshire counties; southern Berkshire County. Listed as a species of special concern.
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	Caudata: Ambystomatidae (Mole Salamanders)	Statewide except Nantucket County.
Marbled Salamander*	<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Caudata: Ambystomatidae (Mole Salamanders)	Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Bristol counties; southern and eastern Worcester County. One population still known from each of Berkshire and Plymouth counties; possibly extirpated from Essex County. Listed as threatened.
Eastern Newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>	Salamandridae (Newts)	Statewide except for Nantucket and possibly Suffolk counties.
Northern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>	Plethodontidae (Lungless Salamanders)	Statewide except Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties.
Eastern Red-backed Salamander	<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>	Plethodontidae (Lungless Salamanders)	Statewide.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Distribution
Four-toed Salamander	<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Plethodontidae (Lungless Salamanders)	Statewide.
Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	Plethodontidae (Lungless Salamanders)	Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties.
Northern Two-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>	Plethodontidae (Lungless Salamanders)	Statewide except for Dukes and Nantucket counties.
Eastern Spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>	Anura: Pelobatidae (Spadefoot)	Bristol, Barnstable, and Dukes counties. One population still known from each of Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden, Essex, Middlesex, and Plymouth counties. Likely extirpated from Suffolk and Norfolk counties. Uncertain status in Nantucket County. Listed as threatened.
American Toad	<i>Anaxyrus americanus</i>	Bufoidea (True Toads)	Statewide except Nantucket County.
Fowler's Toad	<i>Anaxyrus fowleri</i>	Bufoidea (True Toads)	Statewide; possibly extirpated from Nantucket County.
Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>	Hylidae (True Tree Frogs)	Statewide.
Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	Hylidae (True Tree Frogs)	Statewide except for Martha's Vineyard island and Nantucket County.
American Bullfrog	<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>	Ranidae (True Frogs)	Statewide; likely introduced to Dukes and Nantucket counties.
Green Frog	<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>	Ranidae (True Frogs)	Statewide.
Pickerel Frog	<i>Lithobates palustris</i>	Ranidae (True Frogs)	Statewide.
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	Ranidae (True Frogs)	Statewide except Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties. Potentially declining in Bristol and Plymouth counties.
Wood Frog	<i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i>	Ranidae (True Frogs)	Statewide except for Dukes and Nantucket counties.

\*Polyploid species formerly described as Tremblay's Salamander (*Ambystoma tremblayi*) and Silvery Salamander (*Ambystoma platineum*) are now considered to be genetic variants of the Jefferson/Blue-spotted Salamander complex, containing 2-4 sets of chromosomes.

## Reptiles

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Distribution
Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Testudines: Chelydridae (Snapping Turtles)	Statewide.
Eastern Musk Turtle	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	Kinosternidae (Mud and Musk Turtles)	Statewide except Berkshire, Dukes, and Nantucket counties.
Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Statewide.
Spotted Turtle	<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Statewide except northern Berkshire County.
Wood Turtle*	<i>Gleptemys insculpta</i>	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Statewide north and west of northern Bristol and Plymouth counties. Not native to Barnstable County. Listed as a species of special concern.
Bog Turtle*	<i>Gleptemys muhlenbergii</i>	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Berkshire County only. Listed as Endangered in Massachusetts and threatened at the federal level.
Blanding's Turtle*	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, and Worcester counties. Listed as threatened.
Diamond-backed Terrapin*	<i>Malaclemmys terrapin</i>	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Coastal areas of Barnstable, Bristol, and Plymouth counties. Rare reports from Essex County. Listed as threatened.
Northern Red-bellied Cooter*	<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Plymouth and Bristol counties. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and at the federal level.
Eastern Box Turtle*	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Statewide except Berkshire County. Listed as a species of special concern.
Loggerhead Sea Turtle*	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Testudines: Cheloniidae (Sea Turtles)	Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, and Nantucket counties. Listed as threatened both in Massachusetts and at the federal level (Northwest Atlantic Ocean Distinct Population Segment).
Green Sea Turtle*	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Testudines: Cheloniidae (Sea Turtles)	Uncommon. Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, and Nantucket counties. Listed as threatened both in Massachusetts and federally (North Atlantic Ocean Distinct Population Segment).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Distribution
Hawksbill Sea Turtle*	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Testudines: Cheloniidae (Sea Turtles)	Uncommon. Barnstable County. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and federally.
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle*	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Testudines: Cheloniidae (Sea Turtles)	Uncommon. Essex, Suffolk, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and federally.
Leatherback Sea Turtle*	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Testudines: Dermochelyidae (Leatherback Sea Turtle)	Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, and Nantucket counties. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and federally.
Common Five-lined Skink	<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i>	Lacertilia: Scincidae (Skinks)	No extant populations known in Massachusetts, although the species is native to Vermont, New York, and Connecticut. Recorded from Worcester county before 1840 and Bristol County in 1869. Both historic records are atypical locations for this species.
Eastern Wormsnake*	<i>Carphophis amoenus</i>	Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)	Connecticut River Valley in Hampden County. Listed as threatened.
North American Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)	Statewide except Berkshire and Nantucket counties. Local subspecies known as Black Racer.
Ring-necked Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)	Statewide.
Eastern Ratsnake*	<i>Pantherophis allegheniensis</i>	Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)	Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties. Local subspecies known as Black Rat Snake. Listed as endangered.
Eastern Hog-nosed Snake	<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)	Barnstable, Bristol, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Plymouth, Middlesex, and Worcester counties.
Milksnake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)	Statewide.
Northern Watersnake	<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>	Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)	Statewide except Dukes County.
Smooth Greensnake	<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>	Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)	Statewide.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Distribution
DeKay's Brownsnake	<i>Storeria dekayi</i>	Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)	Statewide except Martha's Vineyard island and Nantucket County.
Red-bellied Snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>	Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)	Statewide except Nantucket County. Local subspecies known as Black Racer.
Eastern Ribbonsnake	<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>	Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)	Statewide.
Common Gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)	Statewide.
Copperhead*	<i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i>	Squamata: Viperidae (Vipers and Pit Vipers)	Hampden, Hampshire, and Norfolk counties. Listed as endangered.
Timber Rattlesnake*	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Squamata: Viperidae (Vipers and Pit Vipers)	Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, and Norfolk counties. Listed as endangered.

\*Species appearing on the current list of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species in Massachusetts as authorized by M.G.L. c. 131A, §4.

### Additional Resources

To learn more about these species check out the Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Massachusetts and the Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools. You can purchase here: [www.mass.gov/guides/masswildlife-publications](http://www.mass.gov/guides/masswildlife-publications)

Update September 2020