

Amphibians and Reptiles in Massachusetts

Amphibians

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Distribution
Mudpuppy	Necturus	Caudata: Necturidae	Introduced to the Connecticut River
	maculosus	(Mudpuppies and	drainage in Amherst prior to 1936. However,
		Waterdogs)	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	Ambystoma	Caudata: Ambystomatidae	Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire,
Salamander*	jeffersonianum	(Mole Salamanders)	and western Worcester counties. Listed as a
			species of special concern.
Blue-spotted	Ambystoma	Caudata: Ambystomatidae	Bristol, Plymouth, Norfolk, Suffolk,
Salamander*	laterale	(Mole Salamanders)	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	Ambystoma	Caudata: Ambystomatidae	Statewide except Nantucket County.
Salamander	maculatum	(Mole Salamanders)	
Marbled	Ambystoma	Caudata: Ambystomatidae	Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex,
Salamander*	opacum	(Mole Salamanders)	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	Notophthalmus	Salamandridae (Newts)	Statewide except for Nantucket and possibly
	viridescens		Suffolk counties.
Northern Dusky	Desmognathus	Plethodontidae (Lungless	Statewide except Barnstable, Dukes, and
Salamander	fuscus	Salamanders)	Nantucket counties.
Eastern	Plethodon	Plethodontidae (Lungless	Statewide.
Red-backed	cinereus	Salamanders)	
Salamander			

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Distribution
Four-toed	Hemidactylium	Plethodontidae (Lungless	Statewide.
Salamander	scutatum	Salamanders)	
Spring	Gyrinophilus	Plethodontidae (Lungless	Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire,
Salamander	porphyriticus	Salamanders)	and Worcester counties.
Northern	Eurycea	Plethodontidae (Lungless	Statewide except for Dukes and Nantucket
Two-lined	bislineata	Salamanders)	counties.
Salamander			
Eastern	Scaphiopus	Anura: Pelobatidae	Bristol, Barnstable, and Dukes counties. One
Spadefoot	holbrookii	(Spadefoot)	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	Anaxyrus	Bufonidae (True Toads)	Statewide except Nantucket County.
	americanus		
Fowler's Toad	Anaxyrus	Bufonidae (True Toads)	Statewide; possibly extirpated from
	fowleri		Nantucket County.
Spring Peeper	Pseudacris	Hylidae (True Tree Frogs)	Statewide.
	crucifer		
Gray Treefrog	Hyla versicolor	Hylidae (True Tree Frogs)	Statewide except for Martha's Vineyard
			island and Nantucket County.
American	Lithobates	Ranidae (True Frogs)	Statewide; likely introduced to Dukes
Bullfrog	catesbeianus		Nantucket counties.
Green Frog	Lithobates	Ranidae (True Frogs)	Statewide.
	clamitans		
Pickerel Frog	Lithobates	Ranidae (True Frogs)	Statewide.
	palustris		
Northern	Lithobates	Ranidae (True Frogs)	Statewide except Barnstable, Dukes, and
Leopard Frog	pipiens		Nantucket counties. Potentially declining in
			Bristol and Plymouth counties.
Wood Frog	Lithobates	Ranidae (True Frogs)	Statewide except for Dukes and Nantucket
	sylvaticus		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	Chelydra	Testudines: Chelydridae	Statewide.
Turtle	serpentina	(Snapping Turtles)	
Eastern Musk	Sternotherus	Kinosternidae (Mud and	Statewide except Berkshire, Dukes, and
Turtle	odoratus	Musk Turtles)	Nantucket counties.
Painted Turtle	Chrysemys picta	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Statewide.
Spotted Turtle	Clemmys guttata	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Statewide except northern Berkshire
			County.
Wood Turtle*	Gleptemys	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Statewide north and west of northern
	insculpta		Bristol and Plymouth counties. Not native
			to Barnstable Country. Listed as a species of
			special concern.
Bog Turtle*	Gleptemys	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Berkshire County only. Listed as
	muhlenbergii		Endangered in Massachusetts and
			threatened at the federal level.
Blanding's	Emydoidea	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk,
Turtle*	blandingii		Plymouth, and Worcester counties. Listed
			as threatened.
Diamond-	Malaclemmys	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Coastal areas of Barnstable, Bristol, and
backed	terrapin		Plymouth counties. Rare reports from Essex
Terrapin*			County. Listed as threatened.
Northern Red-	Pseudemys	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Plymouth and Bristol counties. Listed as
bellied Cooter*	rubriventris		endangered both in Massachusetts and at
			the federal level.
Eastern Box	Terrapene	Emydidae (Pond Turtles)	Statewide except Berkshire County. Listed
Turtle*	carolina		as a species of special concern.
Loggerhead	Caretta caretta	Testudines: Cheloniidae	Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth,
Sea Turtle*		(Sea Turtles)	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	Chelonia mydas	Testudines: Cheloniidae	Uncommon. Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, and
Turtle*		(Sea Turtles)	Nantucket counties. Listed as threatened
			both in Massachusetts and federally (North
			Atlantic Ocean Distinct Population
			Segment).

Hawksbill Sea Turtle*	Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Distribution
Kemp's Ridley Lepidochelys Festudines: Cheloniidae Uncommon. Essex, Suffolk, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and federally. Leatherback Dermochelys Coriacea Dermochelyidae Cleatherback Sea Turtle* Dermochelyidae Cleatherback Sea Turtle Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, and Nantucket counties. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and federally. Common Five- lined Skink Fasciatus Cskinks Dermochelyidae Counties. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and federally. Common Five- lined Skink Fasciatus Cskinks 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 Carphophis Serpentes: Colubridae Connecticut River Valley in Hampden County. Listed as threatened. North Coluber Serpentes: Colubridae Statewide except Berkshire and Nantucket counties. Local subspecies known as Black Racer. Ring-necked Diadophis Serpentes: Colubridae County. Listed as threatened. Racer Pantherophis Serpentes: Colubridae County. Listed as punctatus Clarentes Snakes Colubridae Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties. Local subspecies known as Black Rat Snake. Listed as endangered. Eastern Pantherophis Serpentes: Colubridae Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties. Local subspecies known as Black Rat Snake. Listed as endangered. Eastern Hog- Patirhinos Heterodon Serpentes: Colubridae Barnstable, Bristol, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Plymouth, Middlesex, and Worcester counties. Milksnake Lampropeltis Colubridae	Hawksbill Sea	Eretmochelys	Testudines: Cheloniidae	Uncommon. Barnstable County. Listed as
Kempi's Ridley Lepidochelys Kempii (Sea Turtles) Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and federally.	Turtle*	imbricata	(Sea Turtles)	endangered both in Massachusetts and
Sea Turtle* kempii (Sea Turtles) Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties. Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and federally.				federally.
Listed as endangered both in Massachusetts and federally. Leatherback Dermochelys Coriacea 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 fasciatus (Skinks) Massachusetts and federally. Common Five-lined Skink fasciatus (Skinks) 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 Carphophis Gerpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) County. Listed as threatened. North Coluber Serpentes: Colubridae Connecticut River Valley in Hampden County: Local subspecies known as Black Racer. Racer (Harmless Snakes) Serpentes: Colubridae Statewide except Berkshire and Nantucket counties. Local subspecies known as Black Racer. Ring-necked Diadophis Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Eastern Pantherophis Allegheniensis (Harmless Snakes) Eastern Pantherophis Allegheniensis (Harmless Snakes) Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties. Local subspecies known as Black Rat Snake. Listed as endangered. Eastern Hog-nosed Snake (Harmless Snakes) Serpentes: Colubridae Hampshire, Plymouth, Middlesex, and Worcester counties. Milksnake Lampropeltis Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Statewide. Northern Nerodia sipedon Serpentes: Colubridae Statewide except Dukes County. Watersnake Smooth Opheodrys Serpentes: Colubridae Statewide.	Kemp's Ridley	Lepidochelys	Testudines: Cheloniidae	Uncommon. Essex, Suffolk, Plymouth,
Leatherback Sea Turtle* Coriacea Common Five- lined Skink Carphophis Amorenas (Harmless Snakes) Eastern American American Ratere Ring-necked American Ratere Ring-necked Snake Punctatus Construite Dermochelys Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Eastern Ratere Ring-necked Snake Punctatus Contactaus Carphophis Ratsnake* Dermochelys Common Five- lined Skink Dermochelyidae (Leatherback Sea Turtle) Common Five- lined Skink Dermochelyidae (Leatherback Sea Turtle) Common Five- lined Skink Semeces Lacertilla: 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. Connecticut River Valley in Hampden County. Listed as threatened. Statewide except Berkshire and Nantucket counties. Local subspecies known as Black Racer. Ring-necked Snake Punctatus Ratsnake* Pantherophis Reterodon Ratsnake* Pantherophis Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Eastern Hog- nosed Snake Platirhinos Platirhinos Milksnake Lampropeltis triangulum Northern Nerodia sipedon Rerpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Statewide	Sea Turtle*	kempii	(Sea Turtles)	Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties.
Leatherback Sea Turtle* Dermochelys coriacea 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 Eumeces fasciatus Lacertilla: 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 Carphophis amoenus Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Connecticut River Valley in Hampden County. Listed as threatened. North Coluber constrictor Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Statewide except Berkshire and Nantucket counties. Local subspecies known as Black Racer. Ring-necked Snake Diadophis punctatus Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Statewide. Eastern Pantherophis allegheniensis Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties. Local subspecies known as Black Rat Snake. Listed as endangered. Eastern Hognosed Snake Heterodon platirhinos (Harmless Snakes) Barnstable, Bristol, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Plymouth, Middlesex, and Worcester counties. Milksnake Lampropeltis triangulum (Harmless Snakes) Statewide. Milksnake Lampropeltis criangulum (Ha				Listed as endangered both in
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Eastern Hog- nosed Snake Milksnake Lampropeltis triangulum Northern Watersnake Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) endangered. Barnstable, Bristol, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Plymouth, Middlesex, and Worcester counties. Statewide. Statewide. Statewide except Dukes County. (Harmless Snakes) Smooth Opheodrys Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Statewide except Dukes County.	Ratsnake*	allegheniensis	(Harmless Snakes)	Worcester counties. Local subspecies
Eastern Hog- nosed Snake Platirhinos Colubridae Barnstable, Bristol, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Plymouth, Middlesex, and Worcester counties. Milksnake Lampropeltis Serpentes: Colubridae triangulum (Harmless Snakes)				known as Black Rat Snake. Listed as
nosed Snake platirhinos (Harmless Snakes) Hampshire, Plymouth, Middlesex, and Worcester counties. Milksnake Lampropeltis triangulum (Harmless Snakes) Statewide. Northern Nerodia sipedon Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Smooth Opheodrys Serpentes: Colubridae Statewide.				endangered.
Milksnake Lampropeltis triangulum Northern Watersnake Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Katewide. Statewide. Statewide except Dukes County. (Harmless Snakes) Smooth Opheodrys Serpentes: Colubridae Statewide.	Eastern Hog-	Heterodon	Serpentes: Colubridae	Barnstable, Bristol, Franklin, Hampden,
MilksnakeLampropeltis triangulumSerpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)Statewide.NorthernNerodia sipedonSerpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes)Statewide except Dukes County.Watersnake(Harmless Snakes)Statewide.	nosed Snake	platirhinos	(Harmless Snakes)	Hampshire, Plymouth, Middlesex, and
triangulum (Harmless Snakes) Northern Nerodia sipedon Serpentes: Colubridae (Harmless Snakes) Watersnake (Harmless Snakes) Smooth Opheodrys Serpentes: Colubridae Statewide.				Worcester counties.
NorthernNerodia sipedonSerpentes: ColubridaeStatewide except Dukes County.Watersnake(Harmless Snakes)SmoothOpheodrysSerpentes: ColubridaeStatewide.	Milksnake	Lampropeltis	Serpentes: Colubridae	Statewide.
Watersnake(Harmless Snakes)SmoothOpheodrysSerpentes: ColubridaeStatewide.		triangulum	(Harmless Snakes)	
Smooth Opheodrys Serpentes: Colubridae Statewide.	Northern	Nerodia sipedon	Serpentes: Colubridae	Statewide except Dukes County.
	Watersnake		(Harmless Snakes)	
Greensnake <i>vernalis</i> (Harmless Snakes)	Smooth	Opheodrys	Serpentes: Colubridae	Statewide.
	Greensnake	vernalis	(Harmless Snakes)	

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

Update September 2020