Amphibians & Reptiles of Chippewa Nature Center Checklist

Date: ________________________
Total Species: __________________
Location: _______________________
Observer(s): ___________________

15+ miles of trails
Open year-round, dawn-to-dark daily
Open to the public

Visitor Center
Free admission
8–5 Mon-Sat
12–5 Sun and holidays
Closed Thanksgiving,
Christmas Eve afternoon and Christmas

400 S Badour Rd
Midland, MI 48640
989.631.0830
www.chippewanaturecenter.org
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Amphibians & Reptiles of CNC

Amphibians and reptiles are ectothermic (cold-blooded) animals with backbones that rely on the sun’s heat to maintain their body temperature. Look for them spring through fall in appropriate habitats. Amphibians live in wetlands, ponds, wooded swamps, vernal pools and wet meadows. Reptiles may be found on trails and roads or in fields, marshes, ponds or rock piles.

How many of these amphibians and reptiles can you find at CNC? Please share your sightings with us.

(C) – Common (usually present in moderate numbers)

(O) – Occasional (present in low numbers)

(R) – Rare (one to a low number present, not annually)

* Listed as Species of Special Concern.

Amphibians

The name amphibian means “double lives” because most need two habitats – water and land – to complete their lifecycles. They begin life as gelatinous eggs in a moist or aquatic habitat. After hatching, the young go through metamorphosis to become adults capable of living on land.

Mudpuppies

- Mudpuppy (R)

Mole Salamanders

- Blue-spotted Salamander (R)

Lungless Salamanders

- Red-backed Salamander (C)

True Toads

- Eastern American Toad (C)

True Tree Frogs

- Western Chorus Frog (C)
- Northern Spring Peeper (C)
- Eastern Gray Treefrog (C)

True Frogs

- Green Frog (C)
- Northern Leopard Frog (O)
- Wood Frog (C)

Reptiles

Reptiles have dry scaly skin, most lay leathery eggs on land, and the young do not go through metamorphosis.

Turtles

- Snapping Turtle (C)
- Wood Turtle (R)*
- Eastern Box Turtle (R)*
- Blanding’s Turtle (O)*
- Common Map Turtle (O)
- Painted Turtle (C)
- Spiny Softshell Turtle (O)

Lizards

- Five-lined Skink (C)

Snakes

- Northern Water Snake (R)
- Northern Brown Snake (C)
- Northern Red-bellied Snake (O)
- Eastern Garter Snake (C)
- Northern Ribbon Snake (R)
- Northern Ring-necked Snake (R)
- Eastern Hog-nosed Snake (O)
- Eastern Milk Snake (O)
- Eastern Smooth Green Snake (R)

Other species sighted: __________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Michigan has 23 amphibian species and 30 reptile species. Listed below are the species that have been found at Chippewa Nature Center. If you see a species not on this list, please take a photo to show our Naturalist staff.