

CHECKLIST OF THE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF

THUNDER BAY DISTRICT, ONTARIO

At least 25 species of amphibians and reptiles have been found within the Thunder Bay District of Ontario. Of these, only 17 species can be considered native species (13 amphibians, 4 reptiles). The checklist was compiled by Dr. Stephen Hecnar (Department of Biology, Lakehead University) using his own records or those of colleagues. Most of these records are also documented in the published literature or archived in the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas (ORAA).

The list is current as of August 2019.

Nomenclature and taxonomy follow the Committee on Standard English and Scientific Names 8th edition of the official names list of the joint herpetological societies of North America (Crother *et al.* 2017). This checklist will be updated on the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists website if new species are verified or to reflect taxonomic changes made by the committee.

Common or Rare Species Documentation

The occurrence or distribution of amphibians and reptiles in Northern Ontario has not been documented as well as records of birds, fish, and mammals. Please report any rare species sightings to S. Hecnar at shecnar@lakeheadu.ca.

Status, Rarity, and Activity Peak Codes

C – Common, abundant and/or widespread	ES – Early Spring
LC – Locally Common, abundant at some sites	LS – Late Spring
R – Rare, low abundance	S – Summer
A – Accidental	F – Fall
I – Introduced	W – Winter

Common name	Scientific name	Rarity	Activity
ANURANS	Frogs and Toads		
Boreal Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris maculata</i>	C	ES – LS
Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>	C	LS
Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	LC	LS – S
Cope's Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i>	A	LS – S
Wood Frog	<i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i>	C	ES
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	LC	LS
Mink Frog	<i>Lithobates septentrionalis</i>	C	S
Green Frog	<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>	C	S
American Toad	<i>Anaxyrus americanus</i>	C	LS – S
¹ Tropical Treefrogs		A	
CAUDATANS	Salamanders		
Mudpuppy	<i>Necturus maculosus</i>	R	ES, F, W
Eastern Newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>	LC	LS, S, F
Blue-spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>	C	ES – LS
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	R	LS
Eastern Red-backed Salamander	<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>	R	LS, S, F
TESTUDINES	Turtles		
Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	C	LS – S
Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	R	S
² Red-eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	I	LS – S
SQUAMATES	Snakes and Lizards		
Common Gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	C	LS, S, F
Red-bellied Snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>	R	LS, S, F
Gray Ratsnake	<i>Pantherophis spiloides</i>	I	LS, S, F
³ Exotic snakes		I	
⁴ Tropical Lizards		A	LS, F

¹Several species of tropical frogs occasionally occur in the district and usually are found in imported plants and vegetables. These species will not survive outdoors in boreal winters.

²Occasionally individuals of this common pet species that have escaped or been released are reported. This southern species will not survive outdoors in boreal winters.

³Several species of exotic snakes kept by local pet collectors have escaped. Most are southern species that will not survive boreal winters.

⁴Occasionally tropical lizards have arrived in the district as 'stowaways' in imported plants or produce. These species will not survive outdoors in boreal winters.