



Reptiles of Shenandoah

Reptiles differ from amphibians in that they have dry, waterproof skin and they lay eggs with shell coverings. In addition they have more advanced circulatory, respiratory, excretory, and nervous systems. There are twenty-six of these cold-blooded species found at Shenandoah, including lizards, skinks, turtles and nineteen species of snakes. Reptiles remain threatened by poaching, and car strike in the case of turtles.

This list was compiled using the NPSpecies database in January 2023. You can find the most up-to-date information, as well as expanded definitions of the tags at: <https://irma.nps.gov/NPSpecies/>.

Abundance (Abd): Abundant (A), Common (C), Uncommon (Uc), Rare (R), Occasional (O), Unknown (U).

Season: when species is most easily encountered. Spring (Sp) is March - May, Summer (S) is June - August, Fall (F) is September - October, Winter (W) is November - February.

Habitat: Aquatic (AQ), Cultural (CU), Forest Edge (FE), Meadow (ME), Mesic forest (MF), Rock Outcrop (RO), Shrub/Scrub (SS), Wetland (WL), Xeric forest (XF), Park-wide (PW).

Seasonality (Seas): whether or not a species reproduces in Shenandoah National Park. Breeder (B), Resident (R), Migratory (M), Vagrant (V), Not Applicable (blank).

Rarity Rank (Rnk): any combination of global (G) rarity and state (S) rarity from 1-5. Critically imperiled (G1 or S1), imperiled (G2 or S2), vulnerable (G3 or S3), apparently secure (G4 or S4), secure (G5 or S5). You may also see: inexact numeric rank (?), questionable taxonomy (Q), subspecies status (T), or unranked (blank).

	Abd	Season				Habitat	Seas	Rnk
		Sp	S	F	W			
Copperhead <i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i>	C					CU,MF RO	B	G5 S5
Eastern Wormsnake <i>Carphophis amoenus</i>	Uc					MF	B	G5 S5
Snapping Turtle <i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Uc					ME WL	R	G5 S5
Painted Turtle <i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Uc					WL	R	G5 S5
Spotted Turtle <i>Clemmys guttata</i>	R					ME,MF WL	R	G5 S4
Black Racer <i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Uc					PW	B	G5 S5
Timber Rattlesnake <i>Crotalus horridus</i>	C					PW	B	G4 S4
Ringneck Snake <i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	C					MF	B	G5 S5
Eastern Hog-nosed Snake <i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	Uc					ME XF	R	G5 S5
Common Kingsnake <i>Lampropeltis getula</i>	U					PW	B	G5 S5
Northern Mole Kingsnake (<i>Lampropeltis rhombomaculata</i>)	U					CU ME	B	G5 S5
Milksnake <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	Uc					CU,ME MF,RO	B	G5 S5
Common Watersnake <i>Nerodia sipedon</i>	C					AQ	B	G5 S5
Rough Greensnake <i>Ophedrys aestivus</i>	Uc					MF	B	G5 S5
Smooth Greensnake <i>Ophedrys vernalis</i>	R					ME RO	B	G5 S3
Eastern Ratsnake (<i>Pantherophis allegheniensis</i>)	C					CU,ME MF	B	G4G5 S5
Cornsnake <i>Pantherophis guttatus</i>	Uc					CU ME	B	G4 S5
Five-lined Skink <i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i>	R					MF	B	G5 S5
Broad-headed Skink <i>Plestiodon laticeps</i>	Uc					CU,MF XF		G5 S5
Queen Snake <i>Regina septemvittata</i>						AQ		G5 S5
Eastern Fence Lizard <i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>	C					CU,MF RO,XF	B	G5 S5
Red-Bellied Snake <i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>	C					CU,MF WL,XF	B	G5 S5
Eastern Box Turtle <i>Terrapene carolina</i>	C					ME,MF XF	B	G5 S4
Common Ribbonsnake <i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>	Uc					WL	B	G5
Common Gartersnake <i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	C					PW	B	G5 S5
Smooth Earth Snake <i>Virginia valeriae</i>						CU,ME MF		G5 S5



Shenandoah National Park
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www.nps.gov/shen