

## Checklist of REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS of the Audubon Center in Greenwich



The mission of Audubon Greenwich is to motivate people to conserve, restore, and enjoy nature, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats, through education, land stewardship, science, and public policy advocacy. A wide variety of native ecosystems and miles of hiking trails afford visitors to the Audubon Center the opportunity to observe reptiles and amphibians in a natural setting.

Many people confuse these two distinct groups of cold-blooded animals. Amphibians are dependent on moisture in their environment since they have no protective scales over their thin, tender skin. Most begin life in gelatinous eggs in fresh water and undergo metamorphosis before taking up a terrestrial lifestyle as adults. They have no claws and their eggs do not have shells. Most reptiles mate on land and usually hatch from leathery eggs, although some are born live. The scales that cover their skin protect them from drying out, allowing them to bask in the sun to gather warmth. Turtles have claws and snakes have teeth.

Good locations to observe amphibians at the Audubon Center are Indian Spring Pond and Mead Lake, as well as the many vernal ponds in spring. Amphibians can sometimes be found under logs or leaf litter in the forest where they are protected from drying out. Reptiles can be found basking in sunny locations, or swimming in Mead Lake. Don't look for these cold-blooded animals in the winter – they are hibernating at that time.

If you have an unusual sighting of a reptile or amphibian at the Audubon Center, please report your observation to the staff naturalists or record it in the sightings log at the Kimberlin Center.

### FIELD TRIP INFO

Observer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: / / Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

6/03

Reference: **Amphibians and Reptiles of Connecticut and Adjacent Regions** by Michael W. Klemens; State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut – Bulletin. No. 112

## Reptiles observed at Audubon Center in Greenwich

\_\_\_\_\_ Eastern Garter Snake

\_\_\_\_\_ Northern Water Snake

\_\_\_\_\_ Milk Snake

\_\_\_\_\_ Ring-necked Snake

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\_\_\_\_\_ Common Snapping Turtle

\_\_\_\_\_ Eastern Painted Turtle

\_\_\_\_\_ Spotted Turtle (early 1980's)

\_\_\_\_\_ Eastern Box Turtle (1990's)

\_\_\_\_\_ Wood Turtle (late 1970's)

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## Amphibians observed at Audubon Center in Greenwich

\_\_\_\_\_ Spring Peeper

\_\_\_\_\_ Gray Tree Frog

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\_\_\_\_\_ Wood Frog

\_\_\_\_\_ Green Frog

\_\_\_\_\_ Bull Frog

\_\_\_\_\_ Pickerel Frog

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\_\_\_\_\_ American Toad

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\_\_\_\_\_ Red-backed Salamander

\_\_\_\_\_ Slimy Salamander

\_\_\_\_\_ Two-lined Salamander

\_\_\_\_\_ Northern Dusky Salamander

\_\_\_\_\_ Four-toed Salamander (two specimens observed in  
summer 2002)

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\_\_\_\_\_ Spotted Salamander

\_\_\_\_\_ Marbled Salamander

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\_\_\_\_\_ Red-spotted Newt