

Common Forest Amphibians and Reptiles of New York



Spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*)

The spotted salamander is a mole salamander that lives in deciduous or mixed deciduous and coniferous forests containing temporary or permanent ponds. Spotted salamanders are seldom seen except during the breeding season when they are active on the surface as they make their way to water to breed and lay eggs. During the rest of the year, they spend most of their time underground.



Eastern red-backed salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*)

The eastern red-backed salamander is the most abundant and widely distributed salamander in the state. These salamanders are likely to be the most abundant vertebrate in northeast forests. They can be found in deciduous, coniferous, and mixed forests.



Northern slimy salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*)

The northern slimy salamander inhabits heavily forested areas or open shale-covered embankments and hillsides adjacent to dense forest. These animals are most abundant in mature woodlands with an abundance of rocks and fallen logs to provide cover.



Red eft (*Notophthalmus viridescens*)

Although adult and larval eastern newts are aquatic, there is often an intermediate life history stage that is terrestrial. This terrestrial form is called the red eft. They are brightly colored and often can be found in forested habitat in the leaf litter. Red efts may live on land for 3-7 years before returning to the water to breed.



Allegheny mountain dusky salamander (*Desmognathus ochrophaeus*)

The mountain dusky salamander is found in moist deciduous or mixed hardwood-coniferous forests. These animals are most often seen under rocks, logs, bark, and other natural cover objects.



American toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*)

The American toad is a very terrestrial species and a habitat generalist. Outside the breeding season, toads can be found in upland habitats such as forests, fields, meadows, and rocky hillsides. They can also be found in agricultural land and in backyards



Wood frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*)

The wood frog inhabits moist or lowland deciduous forests. Outside of the breeding season, wood frogs can be found moving about in the forest floor litter.



Spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)

The spring peeper inhabits deciduous woodlands and swamps, and adjacent marshy fields and meadows. Outside of the breeding season, these frogs spend most of their time in the woods.



Common garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)

The common garter snake is the most commonly encountered snake in the northeast. They use virtually all habitats, from open fields to closed canopy deciduous or coniferous forests, and from swamps, marshes and bogs to dry upland habitat.



DeKay's brownsnake (*Storeria dekayi*)

The DeKay's brownsnake is found in a wide variety of habitats, from dense forests to open grasslands and vacant lots, and from wetland borders to dry hillsides. These animals require sufficient cover objects to forage and take shelter under.