

Common Forest Reptiles of the Arnot Forest



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.



Ring-necked snake (*Diadophis punctatus*)

The ring-necked snake occurs in a wide variety of habitats including primary and second-growth deciduous forests, old fields, rocky hillsides, grassy fields, and the borders of streams and rivers. No matter what their specific habitat is, they are generally found near deciduous forest. These animals are frequently found under rocks, but may be found under other cover items as well, such as bark and logs.



Red-bellied snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata*)

The red-bellied snake primarily inhabits deciduous forests and uplands regions. Although found in forests, they occur in areas with an open canopy, or along forest edges where the forest merges with fields or streams, and there is open habitat near woods. They are frequently encountered under rocks, logs, bark, and other natural cover.



Smooth greensnake (*Opheodrys vernalis*)

The smooth greensnake is found in a variety of habitats including old fields, pastures, farmland, and clearings in forested areas. They are usually found under cover objects such as rocks and logs.



Coal skink (*Plestiodon anthracinus*)

The coal skink is found in openings in the forest where rocks and logs provide abundant cover. They may be found in clearcuts, along powerline rights-of-way, along road cuts, or in smaller forest openings.



Painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*)

The painted turtle thrives in marshes, ponds, slow rivers, and along edges of lakes with shallow water, abundant vegetation, muddy bottoms, and plenty of basking logs or rocks. To fulfill their nesting requirements, they require nearby open areas with sandy or loose soil.



Snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)

The snapping turtle is a habitat generalist. It is found in almost every freshwater habitat, from pools in small streams to large rivers, and from woodland ponds and marshes to large lakes. They are most common in shallow standing water with a muddy substrate and an abundance of vegetation.



Wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*)

The wood turtle is a semi-aquatic species, but they are usually seen when on land. They are found in a wide variety of terrestrial habitats including open meadows, bogs, deciduous and coniferous forests, and old fields.