

Amphibians and Reptiles of Arkansas

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Credits

Presentation created
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Photographs
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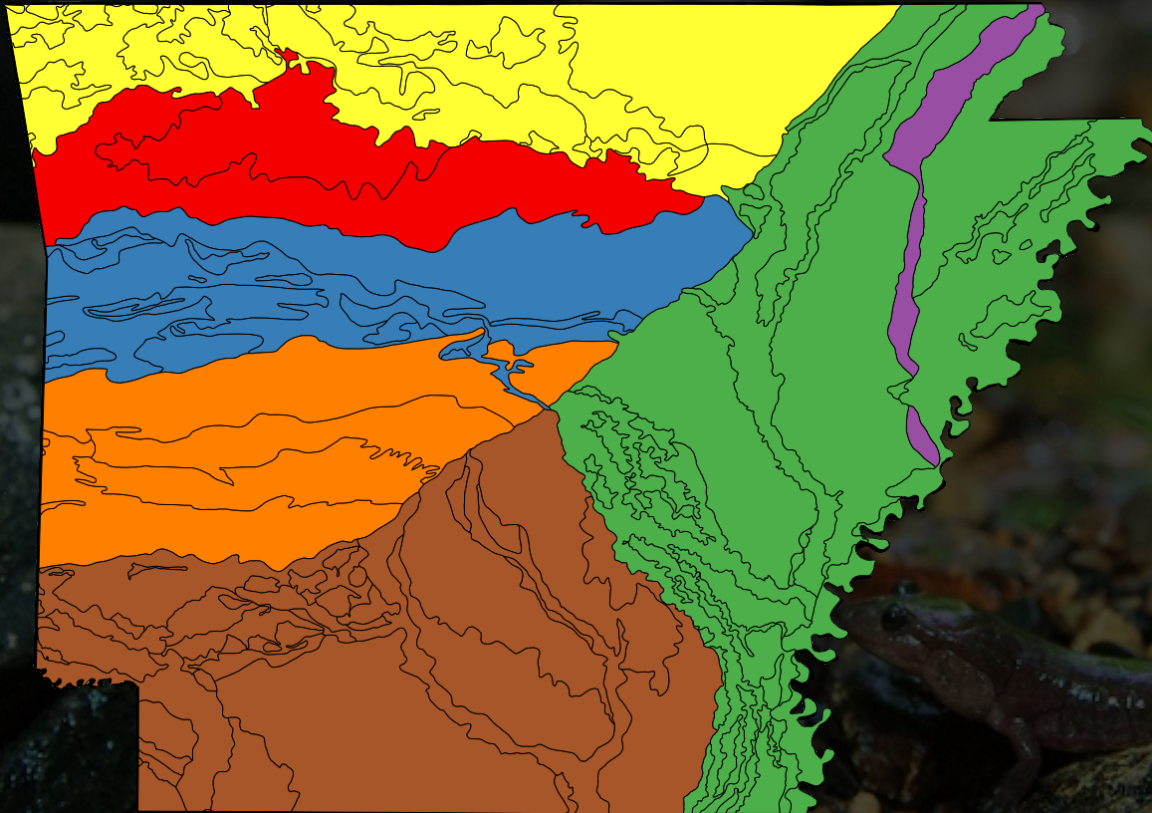
Definitions

- **Herpetology:** The study of amphibians and reptiles
- **Herps:** Slang for amphibians and reptiles; from the Greek *herpein*, meaning “to creep”

AR Herp Species

Source	Amphibs	Reptiles	Total
Trauth 2004	52	65	117
AR Herp Atlas 2016	58	67	125

Level III Ecoregions



- Ozark Highlands
- Boston Mountains
- Arkansas Valley
- Ouachita Mountains
- South Central Plains
- Mississippi Alluvial Plain
- Crowley's Ridge

Amphibians

- Salamanders and frogs
- Moist, glandular skin; require moist habitats
- Biphasic life cycle pattern
 - Eggs simple and gelatinous; require water or very moist conditions
 - Aquatic larval stage
 - Terrestrial adult stage
 - (Many tweaks of the standard pattern)

Salamanders

































Frogs









Photo by Matthew Connior











Reptiles

- Alligator, turtles, and squamates (lizards and snakes)
- Dry, scaly skin; may be active in dry habitats
- Direct development; no larval stage
 - Amniotic egg = “shelled pond”
 - Oviparous (egg-laying) or ovoviviparous (egg-retaining/live birth)



Alligator

Turtles





Photo by Jonathan W. Stanley











Lizards















Photo by J T Williams



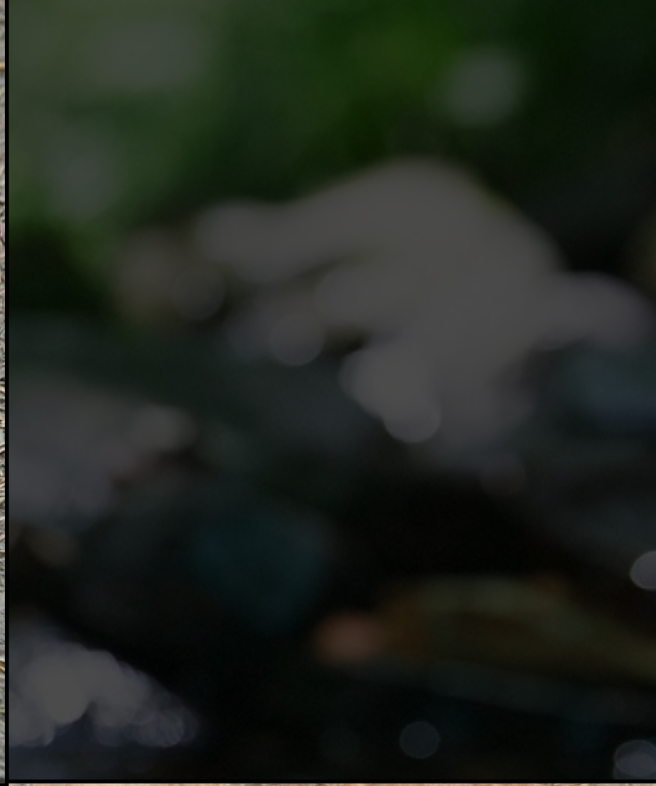




Snakes























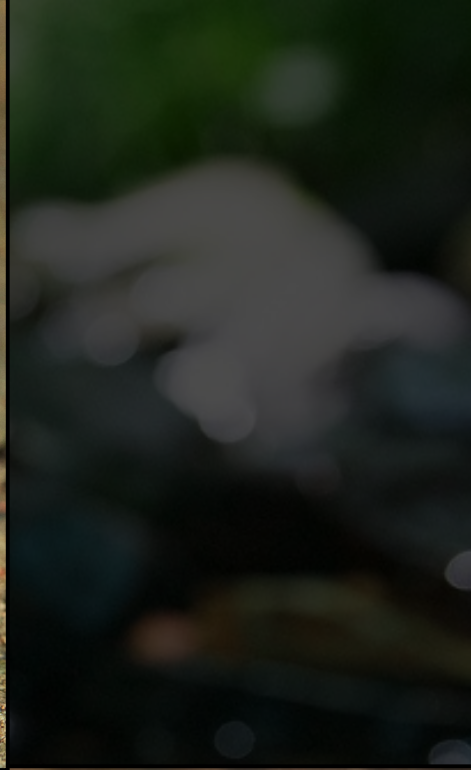
























Established Exotic/Introduced Species



Amphibians of Potential Occurrence

- Rocky Mountain Toad (*Anaxyrus woodhousii woodhousii*)
- Gulf Coast Toad (*Incilius nebulifer*)
- Spotted Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris clarkii*)
- Upland Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris feriarum*)

Reptiles of Potential Occurrence

- Western Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*)
- Yellow Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon flavescens*)
- Texas Spotted Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis gularis gularis*)
- Broad-banded Copperhead (*Agkistrodon laticinctus*)
- Plains Hog-nosed Snake (*Heterodon nasicus*)
- Texas Nightsnake (*Hypsiglena jani texana*)
- Eastern Black Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis nigra*)
- Slowinski's Cornsnake (*Patherophis slowinskii*)
- Bullsnake (*Pituophis catenifer sayi*)

Additional Resources

HerpsOfArkansas.com

ArkansasFrogsAndToads.org

[Amphibians and Reptiles of Arkansas](#)
by Stanley E. Trauth, et al.

[Arkansas Snake Guide \(AG&F\)](#)
by Kelly J. Irwin



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