

Turtles

Common Snapping Turtle – 8-18½ inches long. Has a large head and very powerful jaws. Shell is tan or dark brown with 3 keels on top. Mates April to October, but eggs may take from 9 to 18 months to hatch. Lives in freshwater with muddy bottoms and lots of vegetation. Watch out for a strong bite.



Midland Painted Turtle – Olive or black carapace. Smooth and flattened with red or yellow borders. Yellow and red stripes on neck, legs and tail. 4-10 inches long. Nests May to July around slow moving streams, ponds, or lakes. Likes to bask on logs, and some logs can be covered by many at a time.



Eastern Box Turtle – 4-8½ inches long with a high domed shell. Males have red eyes, but females have yellowish eyes. Has a hinged carapace for defense. Breeds May to July in moist forests, wet meadows, and pastures.



Wood Turtle – Has a brown carapace covered in pyramid-like scutes. Red neck and foreleg skin. Lays eggs May to October, with hatchlings staying in nests through winter. Lives in cool streams in deciduous woodlands, marshy meadows, and around farms. Can climb 6-foot fences.



Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle – Shell covered in soft, leathery skin. Colored olive to tan with eye spots around the rim of the shell. 5-9 inches long. Nests May to August around marshy creeks, ponds, and lakes. Likes to bask on floating debris and logs. Fast on land as well as in water.



Redbellied Turtle – 10-15 inches long with a brown or black carapace. Has an arrow shaped stripe on its head and a red belly. Male has claws on its front feet. Nests June to July around deep ponds, lakes, streams and rivers. A very shy turtle.



Checklist of Reptiles (Pennsylvania)

- Blanding's Turtle
- Bog Turtle
- Common Snapping Turtle
- Eastern Box Turtle
- Eastern Mud Turtle
- Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle
- Map Turtle
- Midland Painted Turtle
- Redbellied Turtle
- Spotted Turtle
- Stinkpot Turtle
- Wood Turtle

- Black Rat Snake
- Eastern Garter Snake
- Eastern Hognose Snake
- Eastern Kingsnake
- Eastern Massasauga
- Eastern Milksnake
- Eastern Smooth Green Snake
- Eastern Smooth Green Snake
- Eastern Worm Snake
- Kirtland's Snake
- Northern Black Racer
- Northern Brown Snake
- Northern Copperhead
- Northern Redbelly Snake
- Northern Ringneck Snake
- Northern Water Snake
- Queen Snake
- Ribbon Snake
- Rough Green Snake
- Shorthead Garter Snake
- Smooth Earth Snake
- Timber Rattlesnake

- Broadhead Skink
- Five Lined Skink
- Northern Coal Skink
- Northern Fence Lizard

Δ Found in North Park 2008

○ Previously found in North Park

* Threatened species

! Endangered species

^ Venomous species

Reptiles Of North Park



Reptiles include snakes, turtles, crocodylians, and lizards. There are 283 species of reptile in the United States; 49 turtles, 3 crocodylians, 115 lizards, 1 amphisbaenid, and 115 snakes. There are 39 kinds of reptile that live in Pennsylvania.

Snakes have long scaly bodies with no legs, ear openings, or eyelids. They can be either diurnal (active during the day) or nocturnal (active during night). Some snakes are venomous, but only 3 venomous snakes live in Pennsylvania, and none of them live in North Park. Snakes hibernate during winter and reemerge usually during April.

Turtles and tortoises are the reptiles with the shell and beaks. They can be entirely marine, entirely terrestrial, or somewhere in between. Some like shallow, slow water, and others may like fast moving rivers. Tortoises are mostly adapted for land.

Lizards display the largest range of colors of all kinds of reptiles. Most lizards have dry scaly skin and four legs. They can live in dry deserts, cool woods, or wet marshes. Most lay eggs, but some give birth to live young. There are no lizards found in North Park now.

Snakes

Northern Copperhead – 22-53 in. Stout bodied. Orange or pinkish with reddish crossbands. Venomous. Lives in wooded hillsides around water. Breeds from the spring to fall. Copperheads are not found in North Park.



Kirtland's Snake – 14-18 in. Brown or grey with four rows of dark spots. Belly is usually red with spots down the sides. Lives in wooded areas near water as well as wet meadows.



Rough Green Snake – 20-45 in. Slender snake that is pea green with a white belly. Lives in trees around water. Breeds in spring and fall.



Eastern Milk Snake – 15-80 in. Grey or tan with reddish brown blotches down back. Lives in all kinds of habitats. Mates in spring.



Timber Rattlesnake – 35-75 in. Can be yellow, brown, grey or black with dark blotches on back. Has a rattle to warn away predators. Venomous. Lives in rocky hillsides. Breeds in fall.



Northern Water Snake – 20-55 in. Reddish brown with dark bands on the neck. Alternating blotches on back. White, yellow, or grey belly. Mates April to June around lakes, ponds, bogs, and streams.



Black Rat Snake – 34-101 in. Powerful constrictors. Black with some white between scales. Young snakes have a pattern that fades with age. Likes hardwood forests, fields, and barnyards. Good climber. Breeds April to June.



Eastern Garter Snake – 18-50 in. Most common snake in North America. Distinct side and back stripes with alternating spots in between. Lives near water in places like meadows and marshes. Mates from March to May and bears live young.



Northern Ringneck Snake – 10-30 in. A slender snake with a yellow ring around its neck and a yellow to red belly. Grey back with smooth scales. Likes forests, fields, rocky hills. Mates in spring or fall.



Eastern Smooth Green Snake – 15-25 in. Small and bright green with a white belly. Bluish hatchlings. Lives in meadows and moist fields. Breeds in spring and late summer.



Queen Snake- 15-35 in. Tan or brown with a yellow stripe on lower part of body. Yellow belly with brown stripes. Lives around streams and ponds with rocky beaches and bottoms. Breeds April to May.



Northern Brown Snake- 10-20 in. Yellow brown or grey with 2 rows of spots bordering a light stripe down the back. Yellowish belly. Lives in woodlands and marshes. Breeds in spring and fall bearing live young.



Northern Redbelly Snake- 8-16 in. Can be brown, grey, or black with up to five stripes down its back. Belly can be red to yellow. Lives in hilly woodlands. Breeds in spring or fall.

