## Reptiles

Reptiles are cold blooded animals that lay eggs on land and breathe air from birth. Meaning "to creep," reptiles have dry skin and scales or, as is the case of turtles, modified scales called scutes. Eleven types of snakes and six types of turtles have historically made their homes at Schiff.

### Snakes

Snakes can sometimes be spotted during the day warming themselves in the sun. They also spend time hiding under rocks and logs. Copperheads are the only venomous snake to ever have been recorded at Schiff. The last sighting was in 1962.

### Turtles

Most turtles live in wet habitats, although some species, like the Eastern Box Turtle, spend most of their time in the upland, wooded habitats at Schiff.

## Amphibians

Amphibians, whose name means "living double lives," lay their eggs in water or damp areas. After hatching, the young spend the first phase of their lives under water breathing through gills until they develop lungs. Most amphibians have moist, smooth skin that can be sticky as it is laden with mucous glands. Seven species of salamander, one newt, six frogs and one toad have been found at Schiff.

### Salamanders and Newts

These slimy creatures require damp, humid habitats and can be found hiding under rocks and logs. (The adult Red-Spotted Newt is aquatic.) If you are out searching, please remember to always replace objects

*(Continued on inside)*

Work still needs to be done to add to our understanding of herpitile distribution at Schiff. Please send comments or sightings to: info@schiffnaturepreserve.org or call the Nature Center at 973-543-6004. Reports should include sighting date, exact location, observed behavior and photographs, if possible.

Resources for studying these fascinating creatures in our home state: The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program has produced a Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey and a related CD, Calls of New Jersey Frogs and Toads.

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**Wood Frog, Eastern Box Turtle, American Toad, and Wood Turtle photos courtesy of Brian Zarate.**

**Ringneck Snake and Spotted Salamander photos courtesy of Allen Barlow.**

SCHIFF NATURAL LANDS TRUST
Celebrating 25 Years 1984-2009

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Paper info to come

# Reptiles & Amphibians

## OF SCHIFF NATURE PRESERVE

Spotted Salamander

Wood Frog
Photo: Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ

Eastern Box Turtle
Photo: Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ

Ringneck Snake

This list contains all herptiles (reptiles and amphibians) known to have been found at the Schiff Nature Preserve. Schiff has been home to at least 17 species of reptiles and 15 different amphibians.

SCHIFF NATURAL LANDS TRUST
Celebrating 25 Years 1984-2009

# Reptiles & Amphibians Checklist of Schiff Nature Preserve Area

American Toad

**Key To Status**
**C - Common; seen in proper habitat at proper time**
**U - Uncommon; occasionally seen**
**R - Rare; Seen at Schiff, but unexpected**
**E - Extirpated**
*** Last recorded sighting in 1962**

**Common Name**
*Latin Name* — Current Status

## Reptiles

### Snakes

- ❑ **Black Rat Snake** — *Elaphe o. obsoleta* — U
- ❑ **Eastern Garter Snake** — *Thamnophis s. sirtalis* — C
- ❑ **Eastern Hognose Snake*** — *Heterodon platyrhinos* — R/E
- ❑ **Eastern Milk Snake** — *Lampropeltis t. triangulum* — U
- ❑ **Eastern Worm Snake*** — *Carphophis a. amoenus* — R/E
- ❑ **Northern Black Racer** — *Coluber c. constrictor* — R
- ❑ **Northern Copperhead*** — *Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen* — E
- ❑ **Northern Ringneck Snake** — *Diadophis punctatus edwardsi* — U
- ❑ **Northern Water Snake** — *Nerodia s. sipedon* — C
- ❑ **Smooth Green Snake*** — *Liochlorophis vernalis* — R/E
- ❑ **Southern Ringneck Snake*** — *Diadophis p. punctatus* — R/E

### Turtles

- ❑ **Common Snapping Turtle** — *Chelydra s. serpentina* — U
- ❑ **Eastern Box Turtle** — *Terrapene c. carolina* — U
- ❑ **Eastern Painted Turtle** — *Chrysemys p. picta* — C
- ❑ **Musk Turtle*** — *Sternotherus oderatus* — R/E
- ❑ **Spotted Turtle** — *Clemmys guttata* — R
- ❑ **Wood Turtle** — *Glyptemys insculpta* — U

## Amphibians

### Salamanders & Newts

- ❑ **Jefferson's Salamander*** — *Ambystoma jeffersonianum* — R/E
- ❑ **Northern Dusky Salamander** — *Desmognathus f. fuscus* — U
- ❑ **Northern Red Salamander** — *Pseudotriton r. ruber* — U
- ❑ **Northern Slimy Salamander*** — *Plethodon g. glutinosus* — R/E
- ❑ **Northern Two-lined Salamander** — *Eurycea b. bislineata* — C
- ❑ **Nothern Redback Salamander** — *Plethodon c. cinereus* — C
- ❑ **Red-spotted Newt** — *Notophthalmus v. viridescens* — U
- ❑ **Spotted Salamander*** — *Ambystoma maculatum* — R/E

### Frogs & Toads

- ❑ **American Toad** — *Anaxyrus americanus* — C
- ❑ **Bullfrog** — *Lithobates catesbeianus* — C
- ❑ **Eastern Gray Treefrog** — *Hyla versicolor* — C
- ❑ **Green Frog** — *Lithobates clamitans melanotus* — C
- ❑ **Pickerel Frog** — *Lithobates palustris* — C
- ❑ **Spring Peeper** — *Pseudacris crucifer* — C
- ❑ **Wood Frog** — *Lithobates sylvaticus* — C

Wood Turtle

*(Salamanders & Newts Continued)*

that you have moved or flipped over so the creatures can safely make their way back under their protective cover.

### Frogs and Toads

Frogs and toads can be found in several types of wet sites. Look for most near the ponds, wetlands and vernal pools found at Schiff. American Toads can tolerate drier conditions and may be found great distances from water. Frogs and toads produce distinctly different calls during the mating season and, with some practice, their calls are easily identifiable.