

# Welcome to Smith Mountain Lake State Park

The most abundant creatures in our park are reptiles. Reptiles have dry, glandless skin covered with scales and are cold blooded.

The reptile groups represented in this checklist include turtles, lizards, skinks and snakes. Turtles are the most ancient of all living reptiles, while lizards comprise the largest living group of reptiles.

This checklist will help you identify some of the reptiles in our area. Check them off as you see them and observe their varying behavior without being intrusive.

Remember, nature is best left undisturbed. Leave only footprints and take only lasting memories.

If you have any questions about the animals found in our park, please contact our Park Interpreter at 540-297-5998.

3/2021



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**Smith Mountain Lake State Park**  
1235 State Park Road  
Huddleston, VA 24104  
Phone 540-297-6066

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Huddleston, VA 24104

*Virginia State Parks*

Smith Mountain Lake State  
Park

# Jr. Discovery Series

# Reptile Guide & Checklist



**This checklist belongs to:**

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1235 State Park Road  
Huddleston, VA 24104  
540-297-6066  
<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov>



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[www.virginiastateparks.gov](http://www.virginiastateparks.gov)

# Turtles



Painted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Has yellow seams on its back & a dark shell with red markings around its edge. Prefers quiet waters.

Eastern box: \_\_\_\_\_  
Has a domed, dark shell with yellow to orange markings. Usually females have yellow eyes and males have red eyes.



Yellow bellied : \_\_\_\_\_  
Brown & black with yellow stripes. Their skin is olive green with patches of yellow down the neck & legs.

Eastern mud: \_\_\_\_\_  
Small, brown & plain. Spends most its days burrowed in mud & hunts during the night. Lives in ponds, creeks & ditches.



Snapping: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brown & known for its bad temperament. Named for its biting nature & should not be handled. Lives in fresh water.

# Lizards

Eastern Fence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brown & grey with distinct markings. Looks like a miniature dragon. Likes sunny, open places.



# Skinks



Five-lined: \_\_\_\_\_  
Named for the five light stripes on its dark body. As a juvenile it has a bright blue tail that can re-generate. Look for them around houses & buildings.

Broadhead: \_\_\_\_\_  
Largest skink in this area. Females are brown with light stripes. Males are darker & head turns red during mating season. Lives in trees, oaks particularly.



Ground: \_\_\_\_\_  
Called little brown skinks because they are brown with black side stripes. Smallest of the skink family.

# Snakes

Eastern Rat snake: \_\_\_\_\_  
Juveniles have boldly patterned dark blotches on a gray background. Usually fades to a solid black as the snake approaches 3-4 feet in length.



Eastern Worm snake: \_\_\_\_\_  
Very small snake with a length of around only 11 in. Light brown in color with a light pink belly. They spend most of their lives underground in moist soil.

Red Corn snake: \_\_\_\_\_  
While varying in pattern & color, most commonly have a yellow to orange body with darker orange to red blotches on its back. Very docile snake.



Rough Green snake: \_\_\_\_\_  
Small snake with a green body and yellow belly. Very docile and calm. Prefer to live in trees near a water source.

Northern Water snake: \_\_\_\_\_  
They can be brown, gray, reddish or brownish-black. Highly aggressive when threatened or picked up. Main staple of their diet includes fish and frogs found in lakes, ponds and streams.

