

Field Check-list of the Amphibian and Reptiles (Herps) of Yellowstone National Park

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Common and scientific names from: E. Koch and C. Peterson *Amphibian and Reptiles of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks* 1995. Habitat section taken from T. McEneaney, *Birds of Yellowstone*, 1988.

10 (and possibly 11) herp species documented in YNP

Compiled by **Terry McEneaney, December, 2008.**

Checklist Key to Life Zones and Habitat McEneaney 1988

- F Foothills Zone (5,165'-6,000') also known as "transition zone" i.e. near desert or rain shadow like conditions found near Gardiner and Mammoth—characterized by: open terrain-- grassland, sagebrush-grassland, greasewood, rabbitbrush, narrow bands of willow; and forested terrain: cottonwood, juniper, limber pine
- M Montane Zone (6,000'-7,600') also known as the 'Canadian Zone"—characterized by: small ponds; open terrain--sagebrush-grassland, sedge, bullrush, narrow bands of willow; and forested terrain--cottonwood, juniper, narrow bands of Englemann spruce, limber pine, aspen, Douglas-fir
- S Subalpine Zone (7,600'- 10,000')—characterized by: larger lakes; open terrain--mountain meadows, limited sagebrush-grasslands, extensive willow; and forested terrain: primarily lodgepole pine, but also scattered cottonwood and or/aspen, and larger stands of Engleman spruce, subalpine fir and White-barked pine particularly at high elevations. Up to and including timberline.
- A Alpine Zone (10,000'-11,358')—sometimes referred to the "Arctic Zone"—characterized by open terrain of very low growing vegetation. Predominately above timberline with stunted grasses and sedges, but interspersed with meltwater meadows, rock or fellfields, snow/snowbanks/snowfields, freezing temperatures, with snow and strong winds found nearly every month of the year.

Legend

Zones: Life zones (F,M, S,A).

Status: Abundant= seen nearly everyday; Common= seen in a weeks time

U=uncommonly found throughout the compressed year; VR= very rarely seen

Months present: Ja,F,Ma,A,M,J,Ju,Au,S,O,N,D or Y=year-round

Population Estimate(PE):

Amphibians

	Z	S	M	PE
Blotched Tiger Salamander (<i>Ambystoma tigrinum melanostictum</i>) Quite waters in lakes, rivers, ponds, streams,	F,M,S	C-U	A-O	?
Boreal Toad (<i>Bufo bufo boreas</i>) Lakes, beaver ponds, backwater channels, stream channels	M,S	C-U	A-S	?
Boreal Chorus Frog (<i>Pseudacris triseriata maculata</i>) Ponds and lakes	F,M,S	C-U	A-Au	?
Spotted Frog (<i>Rana pretiosa</i>) Ponds and lakes	T,M,S	C-U	A-Au	?
Northern Leopard Frog (<i>Rana pipiens</i>) Small ponds possibly sw corner on YNP (Bechler)	S	VR?	?	?

Reptiles

Northern Sagebrush Lizard (<i>Sceloporus graciosus graciosus</i>) Dry sagebrush primarily, but also thermal areas in subalpine	F,M,S	U-R	J-S	?
Rubber Boa (<i>Charina bottae</i>) Rocky areas near riparian streams and rivers	F,M,S	R	J-O	?
Bull (Gopher) Snake (<i>Pituophis catenifer sayi</i>) Dry areas but close to water and thermal areas	F,M	U-R	J-S	?
Wandering Garter Snake (<i>Thamnophis elegans vagrans</i>) Wet and sometimes rocky areas	F,M,S	C	A-O	?
Valley Garter Snake (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis fitchi</i>) Streams, small ponds primarily sw corner on YNP (Bechler)	S	R	?	?
Prairie Rattlesnake (<i>Crotalis viridis viridis</i>) Dry, sagebrush and rocky areas near Gardiner, Montana	F	U-R	J-S	?

This *Field Checklist of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Yellowstone National Park* is brought to you by:

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