

Checklist of the Reptiles and Amphibians of McHenry County

Salamanders

- Blue-spotted Salamander (undisturbed forest indicator, only known east of the Fox River)
- Tiger Salamander (most common species)
- Mudpuppy (rivers, streams, and ponds, usually unseen except by fishermen)

Frogs and Toads

- American Toad (common, terrestrial)
- Cricket Frog (historically abundant, now rare, marsh edges)
- Gray Treefrog (common around big trees, easiest to find after hard rains knock them to the ground)
- Western Chorus Frog (common small frog, will use puddles and marshes)
- Bullfrog (common, large size, most common in nutrient rich lakes, ponds, and marshes)
- Green Frog (common in marshes)
- Pickerel Frog (uncommon, requires very clean water)
- Northern Leopard Frog (historically abundant, now most abundant in higher quality habitats)

Turtles

- Common Snapping Turtle (common, may get to a large size)
- Painted Turtle (most will be the Midland subspecies, abundant in lakes, ponds, & marshes)
- Blanding's Turtle (uncommon, requires sandy soils for nesting, frequently travels overland)
- False Map Turtle (known from MaCullom Lake)
- Eastern Box Turtle (hypothetical, old records in Cary and Crystal Lake, are they released pets?)
- Common Musk Turtle (selects habitats with mud bottoms, tends to stay in the water)

Snakes

- Fox Snake (found in larger grasslands)
- Milk Snake (found in larger forests, typically under logs, bark, etc.)
- Northern Water Snake (common along rivers and streams, larger adults can look all black)
- Smooth Green Snake (historically common, now rare in undisturbed marshes and grasslands)
- Queen Snake (likes to bask on branches along large rivers)
- Brown Snake (common in many different habitats)
- Redbelly Snake (locally abundant in a variety of habitats, were very common at McHenry Dam)
- Plains Garter Snake (common, much more pleasant disposition than the eastern garter snake)
- Eastern (Common) Garter Snake (common, Chicago subspecies has barring on the neck)