

Amphibian and Reptile Diversity and Distribution in the United States

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A total of 545 species of amphibians and reptiles are known from the United States (Collins 1997, Standard Common and Current Scientific Names). Their distribution varies widely by state (Table 1). The warmer states (Table 2), such as Texas and Florida, have a higher diversity than northern states, such as Alaska and North Dakota. The amphibian diversity is highest in the southeast United States with Virginia having 70 species. Reptile diversity is higher in the southwest with Texas having 139 species.

Minnesota's diversity is quite low with a total of 48 species and is ranked 35th overall (Table 2). This is due to our northern climate and recent glacial history (12,000 years ago).

The species totals used in Table 1 and 2 were tabulated from the maps in the Peterson Field Guides (Conant and Collins 1991, Stebbins 1985) and the Amphibians and Reptiles of Hawaii (McKeown 1996). They do not include any recent additions and may not include some species that just cross a state line (i.e. it doesn't show up on the map).

Table 1. Diversity of Amphibian and Reptile Orders by States

State	Turtles	Lizards	Snakes	Reptiles	Sala.	Anurans	Amphs	Total
Alabama	24	12	41	77	37	29	66	143
Alaska	0	0	1	1	3	3	6	7
Arizona	6	41	50	97	1	21	22	119
Arkansas	17	10	35	62	22	21	43	105
California	7	35	32	74	22	21	43	117
Colorado	5	15	25	45	1	14	15	60
Connecticut	7	1	14	22	11	10	21	43
Delaware	8	4	17	29	10	15	25	54
Florida	23	36	44	103	25	29	54	157
Georgia	22	13	39	74	39	28	67	141
Hawaii	3	18	2	23	0	5	5	28
Idaho	2	10	11	23	5	10	15	38
Illinois	17	6	37	60	17	18	35	95
Indiana	15	6	30	51	19	15	34	85
Iowa	13	5	27	45	5	14	19	64
Kansas	14	13	37	64	5	20	25	89
Kentucky	14	9	31	54	29	19	48	102
Louisiana	21	14	39	74	22	26	48	122
Maine	6	0	9	15	9	9	18	33
Maryland	11	6	23	40	19	16	35	75
Massachusetts	9	0	14	23	10	10	20	43
Michigan	9	1	17	27	9	11	20	47
Minnesota	9	3	17	29	5	14	19	48
Mississippi	22	12	40	74	27	27	54	128
Missouri	17	10	34	61	21	20	41	102
Montana	3	3	10	16	3	11	14	30
Nebraska	8	10	29	47	2	12	14	61
Nevada	3	19	26	48	1	13	14	62
New Hampshire	6	0	11	17	10	10	20	37
New Jersey	11	4	20	35	15	15	30	65
New Mexico	9	35	43	87	3	17	20	107
New York	12	3	17	32	16	13	29	61
North Carolina	15	11	36	62	40	28	68	130
North Dakota	4	3	8	15	2	8	10	25
Ohio	11	5	23	39	20	13	33	72
Oklahoma	18	18	45	81	18	26	44	125
Oregon	2	11	13	26	15	13	28	54
Pennsylvania	11	4	20	35	17	12	29	64
Rhode Island	7	0	12	19	9	10	19	38
South Carolina	14	12	37	63	32	29	61	124
South Dakota	7	5	16	28	2	10	12	40
Tennessee	14	9	31	54	41	19	60	114
Texas	23	46	70	139	12	37	49	188
Utah	4	21	24	49	1	12	13	62
Vermont	7	1	11	19	9	10	19	38
Virginia	18	9	30	57	46	24	70	127
Washington	2	7	11	20	13	11	24	44
West Virginia	12	5	19	36	28	13	41	77
Wisconsin	10	3	19	32	9	11	20	52
Wyoming	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>33</u>
average	11	11	25	47	15	16	31	77.5

Table 2. States Ranked by Overall Reptile and Amphibian Diversity

State	Reptiles	Amphibians	Total
Texas	139	49	188
Florida	103	54	157
Alabama	77	66	143
Georgia	74	67	141
North Carolina	62	68	130
Mississippi	74	54	128
Virginia	57	70	127
Oklahoma	81	44	125
South Carolina	63	61	124
Louisiana	74	48	122
Arizona	97	22	119
California	74	43	117
Tennessee	54	60	114
New Mexico	87	20	107
Arkansas	62	43	105
Missouri	61	41	102
Kentucky	54	48	102
Illinois	60	35	95
Kansas	64	25	89
Indiana	51	34	85
West Virginia	36	41	77
Maryland	40	35	75
Ohio	39	33	72
New Jersey	35	30	65
Iowa	45	19	64
Pennsylvania	35	29	64
Utah	49	13	62
Nevada	48	14	62
New York	32	29	61
Nebraska	47	14	61
Colorado	45	15	60
Oregon	26	28	54
Delaware	29	25	54
Wisconsin	32	20	52
Minnesota	29	19	48
Michigan	27	20	47
Washington	20	24	44
Connecticut	22	21	43
Massachusetts	23	20	43
South Dakota	28	12	40
Vermont	19	19	38
Idaho	23	15	38
Rhode Island	19	19	38
New Hampshire	17	20	37
Wyoming	22	11	33
Maine	15	18	33
Montana	16	14	30
Hawaii	23	5	28
North Dakota	15	10	25
Alaska	1	6	7

CANADA

State	Turtles	Lizards	Snakes	Reptiles	Sala.	Anurans	Amphs Total
Alberta	1	1	5	7 2	8	10	17
British Columbia	1	1	7	9 7	10	17	26
Manitoba	2	1	5	8 3	11	14	22
New Brunswick	3	0	4	7 7	9	16	23
Newfoundland	0	0	0	0 2	5	7	7
NW Territories	0	0	1	1 0	3	3	4
Nova Scotia	3	0	4	7 5	8	13	20
Ontario	7	2	11	20 7	11	18	38
Prince Edward Is.	0	0	3	3 4	5	9	12
Quebec	5	0	7	12 9	10	19	31
Saskatchewan	2	1	7	10 1	7	8	18
Yukon	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
average	2	0	4	6 4	7	10	17