

**Guide to the Reptiles  
and Amphibians of  
Northwest Minnesota-  
Region 1S**



**Minnesota  
Department of  
Natural  
Resources**

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Guide to the Herpetofauna of Northwest Minnesota  
Region 1 - South

This preliminary guide has been prepared as a reference to the occurrence and distribution of reptiles and amphibians of Region 1 - South in Northwest Minnesota. Taxonomy and identification are based on "A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians" by Roger Conant (Second Edition, 1975). Figure 1 is a map of this region.

Counties Included: Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Ottertail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin.

SPECIES LIST

Turtles

Common snapping turtle  
Western painted turtle

Lizards

Northern prairie skink

Snakes

Red-bellied snake  
Western plains garter snake  
Red-sided garter snake } s.s.  
Eastern garter snake }  
Plains western hognose snake  
\*Western smooth green snake  
Eastern hognose snake (?)

Salamanders

Mudpuppy  
Blue-spotted salamander  
\*Gray tiger salamander } s.s.  
Eastern tiger salamander }  
\*Central (common) newt (?)

Toads

Canadian (Dakota) toad  
American toad  
\*Great plains toad

Frogs

Boreal chorus frog } s.s.  
Western chorus frog }  
Northern leopard frog  
Wood frog  
Mink frog (?)

s.s. - same species

(?) - hypothetical species - reports needed

\* - special interest species - reports needed

Summary

A total of 17 species are found in Region 1 - South. The mudpuppy, eastern hognose snake, and mink frog are probably present but haven't yet been recorded. The tiger salamander, eastern garter snake, chorus frog are each represented by two subspecies.

Species of special interest are the gray tiger salamander, central newt (if present), and western smooth green snake. Any sightings of these species should be recorded and sent to the nongame supervisor.

County records for this region are given on the following pages. If you encounter any new county records, the specimen should be captured and either photographed from several angles or preserved in isopropyl alcohol. Record the collector's name and address, date, county, township, range, and section number (or distance and directions from the nearest town), and the habitat in which the animal was found. The nongame supervisor should be contacted concerning disposition of specimens.

Unless otherwise noted, all county records are derived from Reptiles and Amphibians of Minnesota by Walter J. Breckenridge.



Figure 1. Map of region 1-South. Township numbers are shown in the left margin and range numbers are shown in the bottom margin.

Reptiles and Amphibians of Minnesota - Region 1 South

Turtles

Common Snapping Turtle

Western Painted Turtle

Lizards

Northern Prairie Skink

Snakes

Red-bellied Snake

Western Plains Garter Snake

Red-sided Garter Snake )  
Eastern Garter Snake ) s.s.

Plains Western Hognose Snake

Eastern Hognose Snake (?)

Western Smooth Green Snake

Bullsnake (?)

Salamanders

Mudpuppy

Central Newt (?)

Blue-spotted Salamander

Gray Tiger Salamander )  
Eastern Tiger Salamander ) s.s.

Toads

Canadian Toad

American Toad

Great Plains Toad

|                                 | Becker | Clay | Wilkin | Ottertail | Traverse | Grant | Douglas | Stevens | Pope |
|---------------------------------|--------|------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|---------|---------|------|
|                                 |        |      |        |           |          |       |         |         |      |
| Common Snapping Turtle          | X      |      |        |           |          |       | X       |         | X    |
| Western Painted Turtle          | X      |      |        |           |          |       | X       |         | X    |
|                                 |        |      |        |           |          |       |         |         |      |
| Northern Prairie Skink          | X      | X    |        | X         | X        | X     |         |         |      |
|                                 |        |      |        |           |          |       |         |         |      |
| Red-bellied Snake               |        |      |        | X         |          |       |         |         |      |
| Western Plains Garter Snake     | X      | X    | X      | X         | X        | X     | X       |         | X    |
| Red-sided Garter Snake )        |        |      | X      |           | X        | X     | X       |         |      |
| Eastern Garter Snake ) s.s.     | X      |      |        |           |          | X     | X       |         |      |
| Plains Western Hognose Snake    |        |      |        |           | X        |       |         |         | X    |
| Eastern Hognose Snake (?)       |        |      |        |           |          |       |         |         |      |
| Western Smooth Green Snake      |        |      | X      |           | X        |       |         |         |      |
| Bullsnake (?)                   |        |      |        |           |          |       |         |         |      |
|                                 |        |      |        |           |          | FWS   |         |         |      |
| Mudpuppy                        | X      |      |        | X         |          | X     |         |         | X    |
| Central Newt (?)                |        |      |        |           |          |       |         |         |      |
| Blue-spotted Salamander         |        |      |        | FWS       |          |       |         |         |      |
|                                 |        |      |        | X         |          |       |         |         |      |
| Gray Tiger Salamander )         |        |      |        |           | X        |       |         |         |      |
| Eastern Tiger Salamander ) s.s. |        |      |        | X         | X        |       |         | X       |      |
|                                 | H*     | H*   | H*     |           |          |       |         | H*      |      |
| Canadian Toad                   | X      | X    | X      |           | X        | X     |         | X       |      |
| American Toad                   |        |      |        | X         |          |       | X       |         | X    |
| Great Plains Toad               |        | X    | X      |           | X        | X     |         | X       | X    |

H\* - Huber

Frogs

Boreal chorus frog }  
 Western chorus frog } s.s.

Mink frog (?)

Northern leopard frog

Wood frog

| Clay | Becker | rd | Wilkin   | Ottertail | Traverse | Grant    | Douglas | Stevens | Pope |
|------|--------|----|----------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|------|
| X    |        | X  | X        |           | X        |          |         |         |      |
| X    |        | X  | X        |           | X        | FWS<br>X |         |         |      |
|      |        |    |          |           |          |          |         |         |      |
| X    | X      | X  | X        | X         | X        |          | X       |         | X    |
| X    |        |    | DNR<br>X |           |          |          |         |         |      |