

**Guide to the Reptiles  
and Amphibians of  
Southwest Minnesota  
Region 4S**



**Minnesota  
Department of  
Natural  
Resources**

## Guide to the Herpetofauna of Southwest Minnesota

## Region 4 - South

This preliminary guide has been prepared as a reference to the occurrence and distribution of reptiles and amphibians in Region 4 - South of Southwestern 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 the region.

Counties Included: Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock and Watonwan.

SPECIES LISTTurtles

Common snapping turtle  
Western painted turtle

Lizards

Northern prairie skink

Snakes

Western plains garter snake  
Red-sided garter snake  
Plains western hognose snake  
\*Western smooth green snake  
Western fox snake  
Bullsnake

Salamanders

\*Gray tiger salamanger  
Eastern tiger salamander

Toads

American toad  
\*Great plains toad

Frogs

\*Blanchard's cricket frog  
Boreal chorus frog } s.s.  
Western chorus frog }  
Northern leopard frog  
Bull frog

s.s. - single species  
(?) - hypothetical species - reports needed  
\* - special interest species - reports needed

Summary

A total of 16 species have been recorded in Region 4 - South. Two subspecies of the tiger salamander and the chorus frog are present.

Species of special interest in this region include the gray tiger salamander, great plains toad, western smooth green snake, and Blanchard's cricket frog. Any sightings of these should be documented 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, section number (or distance and direction from nearest town), and the habitat in which the animal was found. The nongame supervisor should be contacted concerning disposition of specimens.

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



Reptiles and Amphibians of Minnesota - Region 4 South Part

Turtles

Common Snapping Turtle

Western Painted Turtle

Lizards

Northern Prairie Skink

Snakes

Western Plains Garter Snake

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

Plains Western Hognose Snake

Western Smooth Green Snake

Bullsnake

Western fox snake

Salamanders

Gray Tiger Salamander }  
Eastern Tiger Salamander } s.s.

Toads

American toad

Great Plains Toad

Frogs

Blanchard's cricket frog

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

Northern leopard frog

Bull frog

	Rock	Nobles	Jackson	Martin	Faribault	Pipestone	Murray	Cottonwood	Watowan	Lincoln	Lyon
Common Snapping Turtle	X				DNR X				X		
Western Painted Turtle			X	X	DNR X		X			X-DNR	
Northern Prairie Skink	X	X	X								DNR X
Western Plains Garter Snake		X	X	X	X			X	X		DNR X
Red-sided Garter Snake } Eastern Garter Snake } s.s.	X								X		DNR X
Plains Western Hognose Snake							X				
Western Smooth Green Snake				X	DNR X						
Bullsnake	A* X										
Western fox snake	X										
Gray Tiger Salamander } Eastern Tiger Salamander } s.s.					DNR X				X	X	X
American toad			X		X						
Great Plains Toad	X	X	X			X	X			X	X
Blanchard's cricket frog	X	X				X					
Boreal chorus frog } Western chorus frog } s.s.	X		X	X	X			X			
	X		X	X	X			X			
Northern leopard frog	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Bull frog					DNR X						

A\* - Anderson