U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

J. N. "Ding" Darling

National Wildlife Refuge Amphibian and Reptile List







The J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge provides over 6,000 acres of preserved subtropical barrier island habitat for Florida's native wildlife. Its sand ridges, winding sloughs, mangrove islands, cabbage palm forests, and hardwood hammocks are home to a variety of amphibians and reptiles. These cold blooded vertebrates are generally secretive yet abundant and observable year round. Like all refuge wildlife, these creatures are fully protected by Federal law. They shall not be hunted, collected, harmed, or otherwise disturbed in any way. Florida's amphibians and reptiles should be observed and appreciated for the valuable role they play in our natural world.

* Introduced exotic species

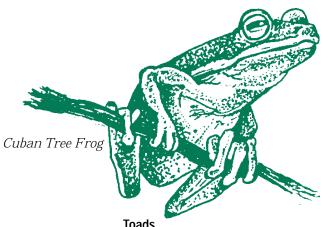
T Threatened species, Federal listing

E Endangered species, Federal listing

Special research requests for the study of amphibians and reptiles should be forwarded to the refuge manager at: J N. "Ding" Darling NWR

Amphibians

Amphibians are moist-skinned, cold blooded creatures who were the first vertebrates to dwell on land. Most amphibians utilize a two stage life cycle, beginning with aquatic eggs and larvae, and maturing to a terrestrial adult life form.



Toads Southern Toad Eastern Narrow-Mouthed Toad Oak Toad

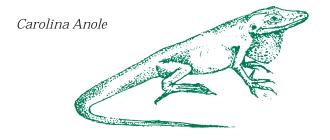
Frogs

Florida Cricket Frog Florida Chorus Frog Little Grass Frog Greenhouse Frog Pig Frog Southern Leopard Frog

Tree Frogs Green Tree Frog Squirrel Tree Frog Cuban Tree Frog*

Reptiles

Reptiles are scaly bodied, cold blooded vertebrates that must breathe air. Many are found in and around aquatic habitats. Most reptiles reproduce by laying eggs, but some bear live young.



Venomous Snakes

Florida's venomous snakes are amongst its most fascinating creatures. Though dangerous, these snakes represent a critical element of our ecological community. Most

are quite secretive, and the Florida Cottonmouth and Duskey Pigmy Rattlesnake, while very common elsewhere are extremely

While it is important to be aware of the possibility of a venomous snake

rare here.

encounter in the wild, its equally critical to note that the vast majority of snake bites occur when one is trying to catch or kill the serpent. The refuge supports conservation of these unique reptiles by offering protection and critical habitat, especially for the magnificent Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake, whose numbers are declining.

Eastern Coral Snake Florida Cottonmouth Dusky Pigmy Rattlesnake Eastern Diamondback

Eastern Diamondback

Non-Venomous Snakes

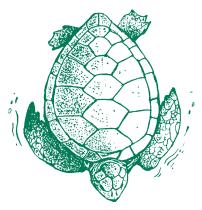
These snakes are totally harmless and valuable members of Florida's ecological communities. Though they may bite humans if provoked, the resulting wound is not serious.

Southern Ringneck Snake Southern Black Racer Eastern Coachwhip Eastern Indigo Snake T Yellow Rat Snake Red Rat Snake Florida Water Snake Brown Water Snake Florida Green Water Snake Mangrove Salt Marsh Snake Florida Brown Snake Eastern Garter Snake Peninsula Ribbon Snake Everglades Racer

Turtles and Tortoises

Florida Snapping Turtle Striped Mud Turtle Florida Mud Turtle Florida Box Turtle Ornate Diamond-Back Terrapin Florida Red-Bellied Turtle Peninsula Cooter Florida Chicken Turtle Florida Softshell Turtle Leatherback Sea Turtle E Green Sea Turtle E Hawksbill Sea Turtle E Loggerhead Sea Turtle T Ridley Sea Turtle E Gopher tortoise (protected by Florida State law)

Loggerhead

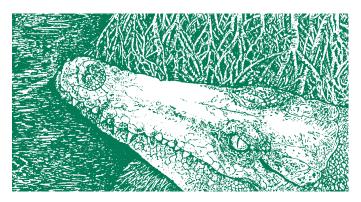


Lizards

Green Anole
Brown Anole*
Ground Skink
Eastern Glass Lizard
Southeastern Five-Lined Skink
Six-Lined Racerunner
Indo-Pacific Gecko*

Crocodilians

American Crocodile E American Alligator T



American Crocodile

For further information contact: Refuge Manager J. N. " Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge 1 Wildlife Drive Sanibel, Florida 33957

Illustrations by Lennie Jones

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Observers	
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Weather	

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