

HERPETOLOGY

Herpetology is the study of Reptiles and Amphibians. Reptiles appeared on Earth nearly 250 million years ago; amphibians over 50 million years before that. Many species are now extinct due to changes in the climate. Early cultures often feared herps (reptiles & amphibians). Frogs were believed to be an ingredient in witch's brews; most everyone knows the reputation snakes have had. People fear what they do not understand; these fears lead to needless persecution. Many harmless species were destroyed merely because they were misunderstood. Slowly, through research and public relations efforts, herps are gaining respect. With over 170 species of reptiles and about 200 species of amphibians in the U.S., perhaps they deserve it.

HELPING HERPS

Bogs, marshes, fields, prairies and woods all provide habitat for herps at Volo Bog State Natural Area. However, providing food, water, shelter and space, although crucial, is often not enough to protect wildlife. Herp populations, especially amphibians, are constantly threatened. For example, a worldwide decline of some species of amphibians may be due to air and water pollution, holes in the ozone, unscrupulous collecting and many other factors. At Volo Bog, we encourage you to learn more about herps through books and from observing them in the wild both here and in your neighborhood. Learn the basic facts and perhaps discover new ones. Research is still needed to pinpoint the various factors harming herps which may ultimately harm even ourselves.

GOOD HERP REFERENCES

Reptiles and Amphibians (a Golden Guide)
by Herbert S. Zim; Golden Press, New York

Reptiles and Amphibians (a Peterson Field Guide)
by R. Conant & J. Collins; Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston

A Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles (a Stokes Nature Guide)
by T. Tynning; Little, Brown and Company, Boston

Voices of the Night (cassette)
by Library of Natural Sound; Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

HERPETOLOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Chicago Herpetological Society (C.H.S.)
2060 N. Clark Street Chicago, IL 60614
(312) 281-1800

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (S.S.A.R.)
Department of Zoology
Miami University Oxford, Ohio 45056

A CHECKLIST

- ___ Tiger Salamander
Ambystoma tigrinum
- ___ American Toad
Bufo americanus
- ___ Western Chorus Frog
Pseudacris triseriata
- ___ Cope's Grey Tree Frog
Hyla chrysoscelis
- ___ Bull Frog
Rana catesbeiana
- ___ Green Frog
Rana clamitans
- ___ Northern Leopard Frog
Rana pipiens
- ___ Snapping Turtle
Chelys serpentina
- ___ Blanding's Turtle
Emydoidea blandingii
- ___ Painted Turtle
Chrysemys picta
- ___ Milk Snake
Lampropeltis triangulum
- ___ Common Garter Snake
Thamnophis sirtalis
- ___ Brown Snake
Storeria dekayi
- ___ Northern Water Snake
Nerodia sipedon

NOTES:

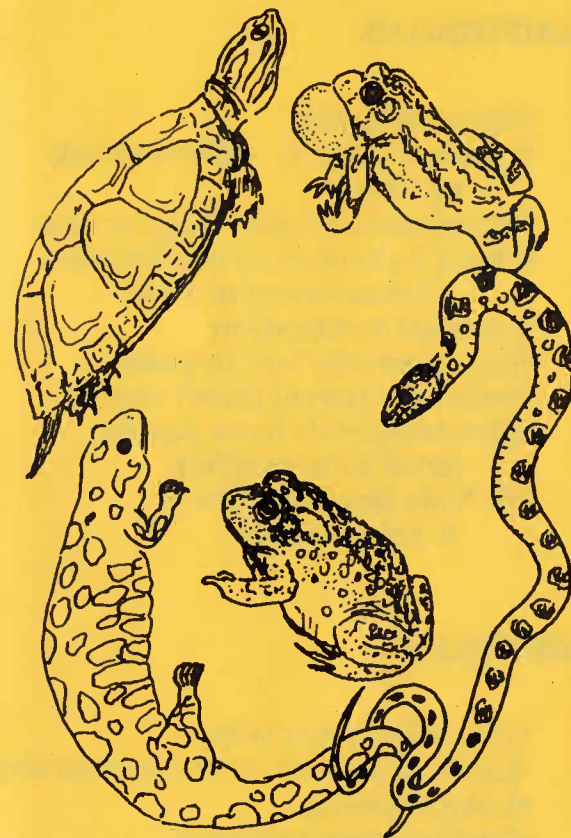
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REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS



VOLO BOG state natural area

28478 W. Brandenburg Rd.
Ingleside, IL 60041
(815) 344-1294

An Illinois Department of Natural Resources Site
Printing funded by the Friends of Volo Bog

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?!

AMPHIBIANS

- Moist, thin skin
- Limbs, if present, often webbed; no claws
- Respiration by gills, lungs or skin
- Heart 2-chambered in immature
3-chambered in adult
- External fertilization
- Eggs generally laid in water
- Immature (larval form) aquatic
- Metamorphosis from aquatic larval form to adult
- At Volo Bog SNA; Frogs & Salamanders

REPTILES

- Dry scales cover skin
- Limbs, if present, with claws on toes
- Lung breathing
- Divided heart ventricle
- Internal fertilization
- Amniote eggs laid on land
(free from dependency on water)
- Some give live birth (ex. garter snake)
- Young look like adult
(no metamorphosis)
- At Volo Bog SNA; Turtles & Snakes

NOTE: ABSOLUTELY NO COLLECTING ALLOWED!
Volo Bog is an Illinois Nature Preserve. All inhabitants are protected by law. Violators will be prosecuted.

HERPTILES OF

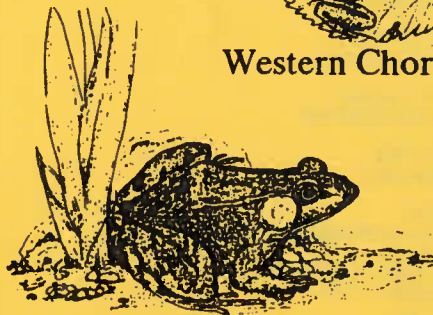
VOLO BOG STATE NATURAL AREA



American Toad



Western Chorus Frog



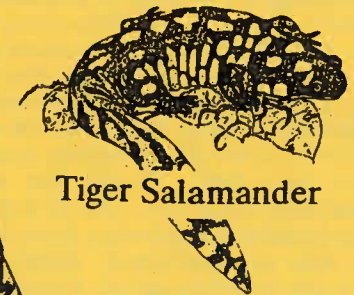
Green Frog



Cope's Grey Tree Frog



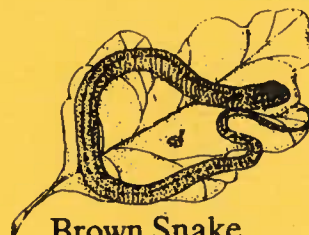
Northern Leopard Frog



Tiger Salamander



Bull Frog



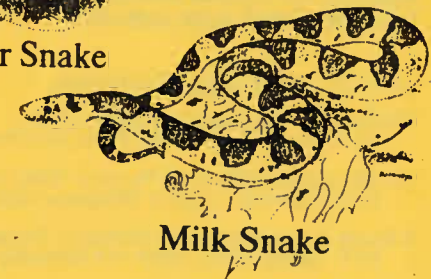
Brown Snake



Common Garter Snake



Northern Water Snake



Milk Snake



Snapping Turtle



Painted Turtle



Blanding's Turtle

ARTWORK BY JIM KOSTOHRYS