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**Annotated Checklist of Amphibian and Reptile Species Observed
at the Gordon Natural Area (West Chester University, PA)
2008-2020. Version I**

Nur Ritter

Harry Tiebout

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Summary Data

Number of Taxa: Species, in 14 Genera, 6 Families, and 4 Orders.

Description

Data were compiled from surveys by Dr. Harry Tiebout, augmented by observations from GNA staff (which, as used here, includes student interns), graduate student Steven Clay, the Stroud Water Research Center, additional WCU Faculty, and members of the WCU Grounds Department. Local residents who are regular visitors to the Gordon have also occasionally contributed observations.

Because herptile data haven't been systematically archived by the GNA staff until recent years, there are many gaps in the observation timeline that are clearly artificial. For example, although the observation history for the Eastern American Toad, Eastern Redback Salamander, and Eastern Box Turtle suggests that there were a number of years in which one, or all, of these species were not seen at the GNA, it is very likely that all three of these species have been observed numerous times during every year that the GNA has been in existence. Hopefully, moving forward, we'll be able to maintain a more complete record of observations.

Status/Threats

The GNA checklist was compared with data from the following sources:

Chester County Natural Heritage Inventory (PNHP 2015)

IUCN Status: Data are from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2020)

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey (PARS 2020)

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC 2020)

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Environmental Review List (PNHP 2020)

Species

Bufoidea

Eastern American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus americanus*)

First Noted By: W. Ricci; **Also Noted By:** N. Ritter; A. Hodowanec; P. Vermeulen; M. Beatty; A. Rivellini

Years Observed: 2013; 2016; 2017

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Notes: One of the most commonly encountered amphibians at the GNA, along with the Eastern Redback Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*).

Fowler's Toad (*Anaxyrus fowleri*)

First Noted By: N. Ritter; **Also Noted By:** P. Vermeulen

Years Observed: 2017; 2018

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Species of Special Concern: Rare, not common due to one or more of the following factors: range restriction; population decline; limited distribution; direct threats from habitat alteration; collection

PA Natural Heritage List: Conservation status: S3/S4 (S3: Vulnerable - Vulnerable in the nation or state due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation/S4 Apparently Secure)

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Species of Special Concern

Chelydridae

Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)

Noted By: Bog Turtle Survey

Years Observed: 2008; 2013; 2018

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Notes: The Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) was first noted during a Bog Turtle survey in the floodplain in 2008. Two additional observations—the first in 2013 (estimated) and the second in 2018—were from a local resident, who's dog encountered a large snapping turtle in a low-lying area near the main entrance to the GNA.

Colubridae

Northern Black Racer (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*)

Noted By: J. Beneski

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Northern Ringneck Snake (*Diadophis punctatus edwardsii*)

Noted By: S. Clay

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Eastern Milksnake (*Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum*)

Noted By: H. Tiebout

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Northern Water Snake (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*)

Noted By: H. Tiebout

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Eastern Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*)

First Noted By: N. Ritter; **Also Noted By:** P. Vermeulen; M. Beatty; A. Rivellini; N. Long; G. Hertel; K. McMillin

Years Observed: 2013; 2014; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Notes: After the Eastern Box Turtle, the second most frequently observed reptile at the GNA.

Emydidae

Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*)

First Noted By: N. Ritter; **Also Noted By:** P. Vermeulen; M. Beatty; A. Rivellini; N. Long; G. Hertel; K. McMillin

Years Observed: 2009; 2010; 2011; 2013; 2014; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Vulnerable; Global Population: Decreasing

Chester County Natural Heritage Inventory Status: Species of Concern

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Species of Special Concern: Rare, not common due to one or more of the following factors: range restriction; population decline; limited distribution; direct threats from habitat alteration; collection

PA Natural Heritage List: Conservation status: S3/S4 (S3: Vulnerable - Vulnerable in the nation or state due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation/S4 Apparently Secure)

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Species of Special Concern

Notes: The most commonly encountered reptile at the GNA. Since 2017, GNA staff have been censusing Eastern Box Turtles at the Gordon. To date, 41 individuals have been identified based on shell markings.

Plethodontidae

Northern Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus fuscus*)

Noted By: H. Tiebout

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Northern Two-lined Salamander (*Eurycea bislineata*)

First Noted By: P. Vermeulen; **Also Noted By:** Stroud Water Research Center; A. Rivellini

Years Observed: 2018; 2019; 2020

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*)

Noted By: H. Tiebout

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Species of Special Concern

Eastern Redback Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*)

First Noted By: H. Tiebout; **Also Noted By:** N. Ritter; P. Vermeulen; M. Beatty; A. Rivellini; N. Long; G. Hertel; K. McMillin

Years Observed: 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Notes: "... is one of the most important midlevel predators in eastern North American forest ecosystems" (Carfioli et al. 2000).

One of the most commonly encountered amphibians at the GNA, along with the Eastern American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus americanus*). Both the Lead Variant and the Unstriped Variant are regularly noted at the GNA.

Northern Slimy Salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*)

Noted By: H. Tiebout

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Northern Red Salamander (*Pseudotriton ruber ruber*)

Noted By: P. Vermeulen

Year Observed: 2019

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Ranidae

Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*)

Noted By: H. Tiebout

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Increasing

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Northern Green Frog (*Lithobates clamitans melanota*)

First Noted By: W. Ricci; **Also Noted By:** P. Vermeulen; Stroud Water Research Center

Years Observed: 2013; 2018; 2019; 2020

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

Notes: Frequently noted along the edges of wetlands and alongside Plum Run. But, very difficult to photograph.

Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*)

First Noted By: N. Ritter; **Also Noted By:** P. Vermeulen; M. Beatty; A. Rivellini

Years Observed: 2008; 2018; 2020

Status

IUCN: Redlist Global Status: Least Concern; Global Population: Stable

PA Fish & Boat Commission Status: Abundant

Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Status: Abundant

References

Carfioli, M.A., H.M. Tiebout, S.A. Pagano, K.M. Heister, and F.C. Lutcher. 2000. Monitoring *Plethodon cinereus* Populations. pp. 463-465. In: Bruce, R.C., R. G. Jaeger, and L.D. Houck (eds.). *The Biology of Plethodontid Salamanders*. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York, NY.

[IUCN] International Union for the Conservation of Species. 2020. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2020-2. <https://www.iucnredlist.org>. Date accessed: 6/30/2020.

[PARS] Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey. 2020. <https://www.paherps.com> Date accessed: 5/8/2020.

[PFBC] Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. 2020. Pennsylvania Native Reptile & Amphibian Species. <https://pfbc.pa.gov/nativeAmpRep.htm>. Date accessed: 5/8/2020/.

[PNHP] Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2015. Chester County Natural Heritage Inventory Update 2015. Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Pittsburgh, PA. 609 pp.

[PNHP] Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2020. Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Environmental Review List (<http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/Species.aspx>); Date accessed: 3/27/2020.

Metadata

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