

Reptiles and Amphibians of Florida Springs, Spring Runs, and Sinkholes

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This table focuses on the species most likely to be of interpretive interest in springs ecosystems. Other herps often seen in these habitats include brown water snake, striped mud turtle, stinkpot turtle, florida softshell turtle, leopard frog, pig frog, and bullfrog. Explanatory text and downloadable files are posted at <http://floridaspringsinstitute.org>. This information was compiled by Linda Duever through a Protect Florida Springs grant and should be cited as follows: Duever, L.C. 2012. Characteristic species of Florida springs, spring runs, and sinkholes. A set of tables funded by the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. and published in cooperation with the Florida Springs Institute. Conway Conservation. Micanopy, FL.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i>	cottonmouth	These poisonous "water moccasins" are common in wetlands throughout Florida, including springs. Their eyes have vertical pupils, whereas those of nonpoisonous water snakes are round. http://www.livingalongsidewildlife.com/2011_01_01_archive.html
<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	american alligator	Abundant around springs and in big spring runs. http://www.empireoftheturtle.com/Trips/alexander_springs3.htm
<i>Amphiuma pholeter</i>	one-toed amphiuma	This small eel-like salamander sometimes occurs in mucky soil along spring runs. It is restricted to lowlands along the Gulf coast. http://www.flickr.com/photos/nclarkii/3190568347/in/set-72157629481565995
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	snapping turtle	These large turtles, which are often confused with alligator snapping turtles, are abundant in spring-associated river segments. Springs may not be prime habitat for adults, but appear to be important nursery grounds. http://www.scubadiver.cc/forums/showthread.php?751-Snapping-Turtle
<i>Eurycea wallacei</i>	georgia blind salamander	This white salamander is endemic to cave pools and springs in two restricted areas of the Florida Panhandle and south Georgia. FNAI G2/S2. http://anotheca.com/wordpress/2011/12/25/a-conservation-program-for-the-georgia-blind-salamander/
<i>Farancia erytrogramma</i>	rainbow snake	These large colorful snakes prefer downstream riverine habitats, but are most often seen swimming in clear spring water as they forage for eels at night. http://snakesarelong.weebly.com/farancia-erytrogramma.html
<i>Graptemys barbouri</i>	barbour's map turtle	Sometimes occurs in springs and spring runs, especially along the Chipola River. http://www.flickr.com/photos/nclarkii/3115291415/in/set-72157632461508147

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<i>Hyla cinerea</i>	green treefrog	Wading birds stalk green treefrogs as they hunt insects in wetland vegetation. This species makes deafening choruses on the Wakulla River. Leopard frogs, pig frogs, and bullfrogs are also common in Florida springs. http://fl.biology.usgs.gov/armi/Guide_to_Tadpoles/species/hyla_cinerea/hyla_cinerea.html
<i>Nerodia fasciata</i>	banded water snake	Both this species and the brown water snake are common in Florida aquatic habitats, including springs and spring runs. These nonvenomous snakes are often mistaken for cottonmouths. http://www.flickriver.com/photos/nclarkii/sets/72157629585360281/
<i>Pseudemys</i>	cooters	These turtles are frequently seen basking on logs. <i>P. concinna</i> , <i>P. peninsularis</i> , and <i>P. nelsoni</i> occur in regionally varying subspecies/proportions in FL spring systems. <i>P. concinna suwanniensis</i> is FNAI G5T3/S3. It is uncertain whether cooter populations have been impacted by overharvesting, http://www.naturefootage.com/stockfootage/Cooter/owner%3Djanderson
<i>Siren lacertina</i>	greater siren	These eel-like amphibians prefer lakes and ponds, but sometimes occur in springs. They are air-breathers who must occasionally emerge from the bottom debris and come to the surface to breath. Their seaweed-like external gills arouse curiosity. http://fl.biology.usgs.gov/pics/salamander/salamander/salamander_29.html
<i>Sternotherus minor</i>	loggerhead musk turtle	These little snail-eating turtles are most often noticed in the clear water of springs, but they are common in rivers and streams throughout the Panhandle. They have been introduced to the Rainbow River. http://www.floridasprings.org/learn/life/reptiles
<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	yellow-bellied slider	This turtle is common along N FL spring runs, where similar-looking <i>Pseudemys</i> species also occur. http://www.flickr.com/photos/man_of_mud/6837863337/in/set-72157629339586744/