

Amphibians

Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area is home to at least nine species of amphibians. Additional species may occur at the Bottoms but have not yet been observed.

The name "amphibian" comes from the Greek root words "amphi" meaning "both" and "bios" meaning "life", which refers to all amphibians' lifestyles of living both in water and on land. While some amphibians can live away from water (terrestrial), they require water (aquatic) for at least part of their life cycle.

All Kansas amphibians deposit eggs in water, which hatch into aquatic larvae. Toad and frog larvae are called tadpoles, salamanders are referred to as larva. Some salamander larvae can remain in that stage for their entire lives, but most larvae (including tadpoles) eventually metamorphose (change) into adults.

Adult frogs and salamanders tend to stay near water and have very thin, moist skin, while toads, with thicker, dry skin, can venture further from water. Frogs and toads can be distinguished by their calls, and can be heard in the wetlands, especially immediately after spring and summer rains. Amphibians eat aquatic and terrestrial insects, tadpoles, fish, frogs and toads. Amphibians also are important food items for wading birds, raptors, reptiles, and some mammals, such as Virginia opossums, striped skunks, mink and raccoons.

FROGS & TOADS

Great Plains Toad

Anaxyrus cognatus

Woodhouse's Toad

Anaxyrus woodhousii

Blanchard's Cricket Frog

Acris blanchardi

Boreal Chorus Frog

Pseudacris maculata

Western Narrow-mouthed Toad

Gastrophryne olivacea

Plains Leopard Frog

Lithobates blairi

American Bullfrog

Lithobates catesbeianus

Plains Spadefoot

Spea bombifrons

SALAMANDERS

Western Tiger Salamander

Ambystoma mavortium

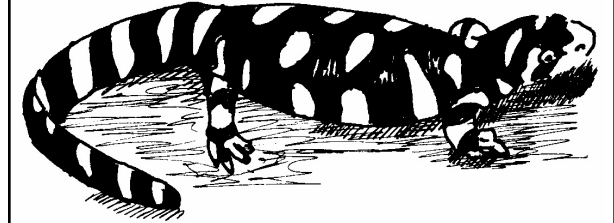
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CHEYENNE BOTTOMS



WESTERN TIGER SALAMANDER

Reptiles, Turtles & Amphibians



PLAINS LEOPARD FROG

Cheyenne Bottoms
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(620) 793-3066 (Area Office)
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Department Website:
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Turtles & Reptiles

Twenty-four species of turtles and reptiles (lizards and snakes) have been observed at Cheyenne Bottoms; however, due to their secretive lifestyles, several other species found in nearby areas may also be present at the Bottoms. Turtles and reptiles tend to be more terrestrial than amphibians, but all reptiles can swim and most of the turtle species are aquatic.

All turtles, lizards and many species of snakes, such as Gophersnakes and North American Racers - lay eggs, while others such as gartersnakes and watersnakes give live birth.

Reptiles and turtles can often be found basking in the sun on the water's edge during the day or on roads at night.

Cheyenne Bottoms is home to a healthy population of venomous Western Massasauga rattlesnakes. While they can be observed with caution, extra care should be taken if walking in grassy areas around the wetlands.

The diets of turtles and reptiles include aquatic plants, insects, crayfish, fish, amphibians, snakes, turtles, bird eggs, small birds and small mammals. Some snakes may be important predators of ground nesting birds. Reptiles are preyed on by wading birds, raptors and raccoons.

LIZARDS

Prairie Lizard

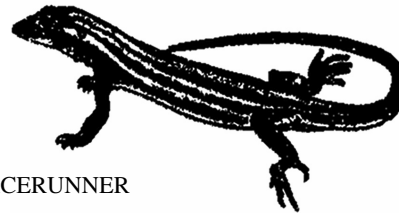
Sceloporus consobrinus

Great Plains Skink

Plestiodon obsoletus

Six-lined Racerunner

Aspidoscelis sexlineata



SIX-LINED RACERUNNER

SNAKES

North American Racer

Coluber constrictor

Prairie Kingsnake

Lampropeltis calligaster

Speckled Kingsnake

Lampropeltis holbrooki

Gophersnake (Bullsnake)

Pituophis catenifer

Prairie Rattlesnake

Crotalus viridis

Western Massasauga

Sistrurus tergeminus

Ring-necked Snake

Diadophis punctatus

Plains Hog-nosed Snake

Heterodon nasicus

Diamond-backed Watersnake

Nerodia rhombifer

Common Watersnake

Nerodia sipedon

Graham's Crayfish Snake

Regina grahamii

DeKay's Brownsnake

Storeria dekayi

Plains Gartersnake

Thamnophis radix

Common Gartersnake

Thamnophis sirtalis

Lined Snake

Tropidoclonion lineatum

TURTLES

Snapping Turtle

Chelydra serpentina

Painted Turtle

Chrysemys picta

Ornate Box Turtle

Terrapene ornata

Pond Slider

Trachemys scripta

Yellow Mud Turtle

Kinosternon flavescens

Spiny Softshell

Apalone spinifera



PAINTED TURTLE