

**Reptiles and Amphibians
of the Credit River Watershed**

Species Common Name	Scientific Name	G-Rank	S-Rank	COSEWIC	M/NP	Forested Habitats						Non-Forested Habitats						Aquatic Habitats		Vernal Pools	U/R	Trophic Level	Habitat Requirements	Tolerance	Comments						
						Upland			Lowland			Upland			Lowland			L	R												
						FOD	FOC	FOM	SWD	SWC	SWM	CUM	NAG	IAG	MA	BO/FE	WM	SWT													
Reptiles																															
Common Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	G5	S5			U ⁸		U ⁸	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U ²	U	U	U ⁸	P	U ²	N ¹		O	G	T	Needs aquatic habitat ¹ . Highly migratory ² . Needs sand and gravel for egg laying ² . Do not usually bask out of the water ⁶ .				
Midland Painted Turtle	<i>Cherysemys picta marginata</i>	G5T5	S3											U	U	U	U	U	U ⁸	U	P ²	P	N ¹	N ¹	O	G	T	Needs aquatic habitat ¹ . Will use farm ponds ² . Needs sand and gravel for egg laying ² . Most widely ranging turtle in Ontario ³ . Prefers quiet, slow moving permanent water with soft bottom ⁵ .			
Red Eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	G5	SE1											U	P	P					P	P	N ¹		O	O	T ²	Needs quite waters with muddy bottom & abundant vegetation/protruding logs, etc. for basking ¹ . Exotic species ² .			
Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingi</i>	G4	S4											U	U	U	U	U	U	U	P ²	U	N ¹		O	G/S ²	M/S	Needs shallow water with soft muddy bottom with abundant vegetation ¹ . Will use farm ponds ² . Needs sand and gravel for egg laying ² . Quite cold tolerant ⁶ . Prefers secluded bays, lakes and large open marshes with little human intrusion ⁷ . Probably a threatened species in the watershed ⁸ .			
Common Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys geographica</i>	G5	S4											U	U							P	P	N ¹		O	S	M/S	Mollusks are primary food source, therefore prefers muddy/soft bottom ¹ . Also needs sand and gravel for egg laying ² . Almost never found in small ponds and dugouts ³ . Highly aquatic ⁵ . Possible occurs in the lower Credit River and Rattray Marsh, unlikely to be found elsewhere in the drainage ⁹ .		
Eastern Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis</i>	G5T?	S5			U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U ²	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U ⁸	U	N ¹	U	C	O	T	Need areas for hibernulum ² . Hibernates in large numbers ⁵ . Found in a variety of habitats; opportunistic feeder; move to hibernate in the first two weeks of October ⁷ .
Northern Redbelly Snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>	G5	S5			P	U	P	U	U	U	U	U	U	U											N ¹	U	I	G ²	M/S	Prefers woodlands with woodpiles ² . Habitat similar to Brown Snake ³ . Feeds on earthworms, slugs and insect grubs ⁷ .
Northern Brown Snake	<i>Storeria dekayi dekayi</i>	G5	S5			P		P	U	U	U	U	U	U	U											N ¹	P	I	O	M/S	Habitat similar to redbelly ² . Frequents sites too disturbed for Redbelly snake ³ . Feeds on slugs and earthworms ⁷ .
Northern Ringneck Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus edwardsi</i>	G5	S4			U	U	U						U												N ¹	M	I/C ²	G ²	S	Prefers mesic areas with abundant cover (rocks) ¹ . Does not lay eggs in really wet areas ² . Very secretive ³ . Preys on salamanders ⁷ .
Eastern Milk Snake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum</i>	G5	S4			U		U	U		U	P ²	P ²	U								U				N ¹	P	C	G	M/S	Needs loose soil or suitable cover for laying eggs, and a large supply of rodents ² . Found near farm outbuildings ⁶ .
Northern Water Snake	<i>Nerodia sipedon sipedon</i>	G5T5	S5																			U	P ²	P ²	N ¹		C/P ²	S	M/S	Needs boulders or branches overhanging water ³ . Aggressive ² . Will live near most permanent bodies of water ⁵ . Feeds on frogs, fish and tadpoles ⁷ . Common in areas of low human impact ⁹ .	
Smooth Green Snake	<i>Ophedrys vernalis</i>	G5	S4			U		U	U		U	P	P	U	U ⁸	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U			I	G ²	S/M ²	Needs upland-grassy openings ¹ . Also uses ledge and cliff habitats ¹ . Feeds on caterpillars, spiders and grasshoppers ⁷ .	
Northern Ribbon Snake	<i>Thamnophis sauritus septentrionalis</i>	G5	S4			U		U ²	U ²		U ²											U	U	U	U	U	N ¹	I/C	G ²	S	Needs shallow, permanent water in grassy habitat ¹ . Eats frogs and snakes ² .
Amphibians																															
Mudpuppy	<i>Necturus maculosus maculosus</i>	G5	S4			N ¹	N ¹	N ¹	N ¹	N ¹	N ¹	N ¹	N ¹	U	N ¹	N ¹	U	U	U	P	P	N ¹	N ¹	I/P	S	M/S	Needs permanent bodies of water which is well oxygenated ¹ . Not found in Lake Ontario ² . Nocturnal species ³ .				
Red-spotted Newt (Eastern)	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens</i>	G5T5	S5			U	U	U	U	U	U ²				P	U ²	U	U	U	P	U	N ⁵		I	S	M/S	Adults newt requires water with aquatic vegetation ³ . Juvenile Red EFT phase is terrestrial ² .				
Jefferson Salamander	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	G2	S2			P ²		U ²	P					U		U	U	U	U	P	P	P ²		I	S	S/M	Requires temporary pools for breeding ³ . Usually lays eggs in pools in rich forests ⁵ . Prefers undisturbed habitats ⁶ .				
"Silvery Salamander"	<i>A. laterale-(2)jeffersonianum</i>	N/A	N/A			P ²		U ²	P					U ²		U ²	U ²	U ²	P ²	P ²	P ²		I	S	S/M	Jefferson Salamander complex.					
"Tremblay's Salamander"	<i>A.(2) laterale-jeffersonianum</i>	N/A	N/A			P ²		U ²	P					U ²		U ²	P ²	P ²	P ²			P ²		I	S	S/M	Needs marshes/vernal pools for breeding ² . Jefferson Salamander complex.				
Blue-spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>	G5	S4			U	U ⁵	P ²	U	U ⁴	U ⁵	P ²	U ²	U ⁵	U	U	U	U	P	U	U ⁵		I	S	M/S	Needs ponds/semi-permanent water for breeding ¹ . Will breed in ditches; requires presence of water into mid-summer ² . Relatively cold tolerant ⁶ .					
Northern Redback Salamander	<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>	G5	S5			P ²	U	P ³	U	U	U							U	U ²			N ¹	U	I	S	M/S	Need logs, stumps and rocks for cover/egg laying ³ . Not found in flooded areas ² . Rotting logs in mid-aged to mature woodlands ⁴ . Avoids areas twch are frequently flooded or have sandy soils ⁶ .				
Four-toed Salamander	<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	G5	S4			U	U	U	P	U	U			U	P	U	U ⁸	U	U	U	U	P ²		I	S	S	Needs acid/wet woodlands ³ . Larvae need water ² . Nests in moss overhanging water ⁸ .				
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	G5	S4			U	U	U	P	U	U			U		U	U	U	U	P	U	P ²		I	S	M/S	Needs mesic woods with semi-permanent water for breeding ¹ . Will breed in lakes with fish ¹ . Utilizes caves ¹ . Temporary/semi-permanent water is a critical habitat element ⁶ .				
Eastern American Toad	<i>Bufo americanis americanis</i>	G5	S5			U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U ²	U	U	U	U	U	P ²	U	I	O	T	Needs shallow water for breeding-hibernates in underground burrows ¹ . Utilizes more types of habitat for breeding than any other amphibian ³ .				
Northern Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer crucifer</i>	G5	S5			U	U	U ²	U	U ⁴	U			P	U ⁸	U	U	U	U	P	U	P ²		I	G	M/S	Will breed in permanent water/ditches ² . Needs temperate water bodies ⁴ . Breeds mostly in pools in secondary growth forests/swamps ⁵ .				
Tetraploid Grey Treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	G5	S5			U		P ²	U		U			U	U					U ³	P	U	U ⁵	U ³	I	G	M/S	Needs aquatic sites for breeding (not vernal pools) ³ . Prefers mixed forests ² . Will breed in farm ponds ² .			

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						Upland			Lowland			Upland			Lowland			L	R								
						FOD	FOC	FOM	SWD	SWC	SWM	CUM	NAG	IAG	MA	BO/FE	WM	SWT									
Striped Chorus Frog (Western)	<i>Pseudacris triseriata triseriata</i>	G5	S5			U ³	U ³	U ³	U ³	U ³	U ³	P ³	U ³	U ³	P ³	U ⁸	P ²	U ²	U ²	U ⁸	P ²	U	I	G	M/S	Burrows in winter, emerges later and begins hibernation earlier in summer, more sensitive than Spring Peeper-only live for approx. 1 year ² . Requires areas with floating/aquatic emergent vegetation ⁵ .	
Wood Frog	<i>Rana sylvatica</i>	G5	S5			P ²	U	U	U	U	U			U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	P ²		I	S	M/S	Needs temperate woodland pools or backwaters of slow-moving streams for breeding ² . Rarely found in water when not breeding ⁶ .
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	G5	S5						U			P ²	U	P	U	P	U ⁸	U	U	U ⁸			I	G	M/S	Needs wet meadows ³ . Migrates from wetlands to wet meadows in summer after breeding ⁵ .	
Pickerel Frog	<i>Rana palustris</i>	G5	S4				U	U		P ²	U			U ⁶	P			P	P ⁶				I	S	S	Needs shallow/cool pools of bogs and ponds for breeding, also uses caves ¹ . Persistent close to cold water springs ³ . Similar to Northern Leopard frog ⁵ . Less inclined to wander than Northern Leopard Frog ⁶ .	
Green Frog	<i>Rana calmitans melanota</i>	G5	S5							U	U ⁶			U		U	U	U	P		N ⁵	U	I/C	O	T	Needs riparian areas ³ . Will breed in man-made ponds, slow-moving and stagnant water ³ . Needs deep ponds with high oxygen content ² . Young take 1 year to emerge and must overwinter in water ⁵ . More tolerant than Bullfrog ⁶ .	
Mink Frog	<i>Rana septentrionalis</i>	G5	S5						U	U ⁴	U ⁶			U/P ⁶	U ⁸			P	P		N ⁵		I/C	S	M/S	Breeds & hibernates in permanent water only, prefers lily pads in open water for basking and feeding ¹ . Prefers cool, permanent water with ample emergent vegetation ⁵ .	
Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	G5	S4			N ²	N ²	N ²	U	N ²	U	N ²	N ²	N ²	U			N ²	P	U	N ²		I/C/P	S	M/S	Totally aquatic ² . Needs deep, permanent water with emergent vegetation, tadpoles must overwinter in water ³ .	