

SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS OF ONTARIO

Illustrations are half life size.

In Ontario, amphibians are protected under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Endangered Species Acts. If you find an amphibian please do not disturb, it or remove it from its habitat. If you see an amphibian wandering over land in spring or early summer, it is most likely a female about to lay her eggs. Watch it, love it, but leave it! We all have a role to play in protecting wetland habitat and amphibian nesting areas. Observations help to identify important amphibian habitats. Submit sightings to [Frogwatch Ontario at adoptoo.com/adoptoo.com/adoptoo.asp](http://FrogwatchOntario.com/adoptoo.com/adoptoo.com/adoptoo.asp). Wildlife data collected through FrogWatch Ontario is shared with partner programs at Environment Canada, the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) and Ontario Nature.

These amphibians are not found in all Ontario regions. Consult a field guide for distribution maps of amphibians in your area. The size of amphibians includes U.S. populations as listed in: Roger Conant and Joseph T. Collins, *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America*, 3rd edition, Houghton Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1991.

Eastern Red-backed Salamander

Plethodon cinereus

- Redback phase
- 5.7-10 cm; record 12.7 cm
- Distinct red to brown stripe down back
- Sides dark grey
- Belly mottled with grey
- Small lungless salamander



Leadback phase

- Light grey to black stripe down back



Red-spotted Newt

Notopthalmus viridescens viridescens

- 5.7-12.2 cm; record 14 cm
- Black bordered red spots on back
- Yellow belly covered in small black spots
- Dark stripe through the eye



Northern Two-lined Salamander

Eurycea bislineata

- 6.4-9.5 cm; record 12.1 cm
- Yellowish stripe down back bordered by two black stripes
- Belly yellow, sides grey
- Small lungless salamander



Northern Dusky Salamander

Desmognathus fuscus

- 6.4-11.5 cm; record 14.1 cm
- Light eye strip extends from eye to angle of jaw; mouth-line straight
- Greyish brown; irregular brownish stripe extends down back onto tail
- Sides peppered with silver-grey; belly light coloured or cream with dark reticulations
- Tail thicker at base; wedge-shaped or triangular in cross section
- Hind legs larger than front legs
- Only found in Niagara area
- ENDANGERED (OMNR)



Four-toed Salamander

Hemidactylium scutatum

- 5.1-9 cm; record 10.2 cm
- Tail narrows (constricted) at the base
- Rusty to red back with grey sides
- White belly is covered in black spots
- Hind foot with four toes (all other salamanders except the Mudpuppy have five toes on the hind foot)
- Small lungless salamander



Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander

Desmognathus ochrophaeus

- 7-10 cm; record 11.1 cm
- Stripe from eye to corner of mouth
- Greyish brown to olive; brown back stripe that may contain dark chevron-like pattern; older individuals appear dark brown
- Rounded tail in cross section
- Hind legs larger than front legs
- Only found in Niagara area
- ENDANGERED (COSEWIC)
- ENDANGERED (OMNR)



Spotted Salamander

Ambystoma maculatum

- 11.2-19.7 cm; record 24.8 cm
- Large yellow to orange spots on back and tail
- Black body



Blue-spotted Salamander

Ambystoma laterale

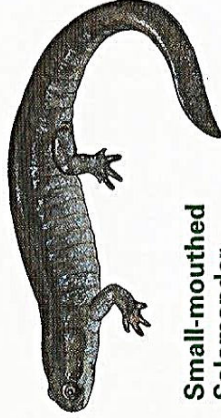
- 10-14 cm; record 16 cm
- Black with blue flecks on back, along sides and on tail
- Dark grey to black belly
- Hybridizes with Small-mouthed Salamander (*Ambystoma texanum*) on Pelee Island



Small-mouthed Salamander

Ambystoma texanum

- 10-14 cm; record 17.8 cm
- Black or dark brown with bluish or grey flecks on the sides
- Head is proportionally small
- Only found on Pelee Island
- ENDANGERED (COSEWIC)
- ENDANGERED (OMNR)



Jefferson Salamander

Ambystoma jeffersonianum

- 10.7-18 cm; record 21 cm
- Dark brown to grey
- Bluish white flecks on sides of body and limbs
- Belly lighter grey than Blue-spotted Salamander
- Sometimes hybridizes with Blue-spotted Salamander (*A. laterale*) making identification difficult.
- ENDANGERED (COSEWIC)
- ENDANGERED (OMNR)



Mudpuppy

Necturus maculosus

- 20-33 cm; record 48.6 cm
- Largest tailed amphibian found only in water
- Reddish brown body with black spots
- Three pairs of feathery red external gills
- Hind foot with four digits

