



## Okaloosa County, FL Common Reptiles

Learn about the biodiversity and adaptations of 35 reptiles that live in Okaloosa County, including lizards, snakes, alligators, turtles, and more!

This card deck has been developed as part of the Okaloosa SCIENCE project, a collaborative STEM education grant for Okaloosa County School District in Florida. The goals of this project include enhancing scientific literacy, connecting to place, and building community by engaging in hands-on activities.

Find this card deck and more at:  
[education.eol.org/species\\_cards](http://education.eol.org/species_cards)



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Title Image Credit: Ashley Tubbs CC-BY-NC

### Project Description

#### American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis*

eol  
Reptiles



Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Freshwater Forested Wetlands

CARN  
Foodweb Role

Total Length	3-4.5 m
Adult Weight	150 kg
Adult Habitat	Mostly aquatic
Clutch / Broods	30-50; 1/yr
Activity	Cathemeral

LC  
IUCN Redlist™

#### Geographic Range

Native from southern Virginia south along Atlantic coast through Florida, along Gulf coast to the Rio Grande River in Texas

Image: Greg Lasley CC-BY-NC

#### Alligator Snapping Turtle *Macrochelys temminckii*

eol  
Reptiles



Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Freshwater Forested Wetlands

OMNI  
Foodweb Role

Carapace Length	66 cm (avg)
Adult Weight	70-80 kg
Adult Habitat	Aquatic
Clutch / Broods	8-52; 1/yr
Activity	Nocturnal, diurnal

VU  
IUCN Redlist™

#### Geographic Range + Adaptation

Range: Native to Eastern U.S. from Long Island to Florida, west to Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas  
Adaptation: Worm-shaped tongue to lure prey into mouth

Image: Gary M. Stoltz/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Common Name

##### Scientific Name

##### Taxon Group

###### Food Web Roles

DECO	Decomposer: Energy from dead material
AUTO	Autotroph: Energy from sun, water, CO <sub>2</sub>
HERB	Herbivore: Energy from plants
OMNI	Omnivore: Energy from plants, animals
CARN	Carnivore: Energy from animals
APEX	Apex Predator: Top predator
DETR	Detritivore: Energy from dead vegetation
SANG	Sanguinivore: Energy from blood
MULT	Multiple: Energy from multiple sources

**Habitat** (where species is found)  
+ (indicates species is also found in other habitats)

###### Species Conservation Status

###### IUCN Redlist™

International Union for  
Conservation of Nature

NE Not Evaluated

LC Least Concern

VU Vulnerable

DD Data Deficient

CR Critically Endangered

NT Near Threatened

EW Extinct in Wild

EN Endangered

EX Extinct

eol  
Reptiles

#### Common Box Turtle *Terrapene carolina*



Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Urban Habitats

OMNI  
Foodweb Role

Carapace Length	11-18 cm
Adult Weight	311-523 g
Adult Habitat	Terrestrial
Clutch/Broods	4-5 (avg); 1/yr
Activity	Diurnal, crepuscular

VU  
IUCN Redlist™

#### Geographic Range + Adaptation

Range: Native in Eastern U.S. from Maine to Florida, west to Michigan, Illinois, Kansas, and Texas  
Adaptation: Shell can repair itself if damaged

Image: 2011 Todd Pierson CC-BY-NC-SA



**Common Snapping Turtle**  
*Chelydra serpentina*

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Reptiles



**OMNI**  
Foodweb Role

**Carapace Length** 23 - 49 cm  
**Adult Weight** 4.5 - 16 kg  
**Adult Habitat** Aquatic  
**Clutch / Broods** 28-49; 1/yr  
**Activity** Nocturnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Central and eastern North America  
Adaptation: Bury body in mud with only eyes and nostrils exposed to ambush prey

Image: 2011 Todd Pierson CC-BY-NC-SA

**Diamondback Terrapin**  
*Malaclemys terrapin*

eol  
Reptiles



**CARN**  
Foodweb Role

**Carapace Length** 12-25 cm  
**Adult Weight** 227-720 g  
**Adult Habitat** Aquatic (brackish)  
**Clutch / Broods** 4-8; several/yr  
**Activity** Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** NT

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Eastern United States and along the Gulf Coast  
Adaptation: Have flattened shell and webbed feet for swimming

Image: 2011 Todd Pierson CC-BY-NC-SA

**Eastern Mud Turtle**  
*Kinosternon subrubrum*

eol  
Reptiles



**OMNI**  
Foodweb Role

**Carapace Length** 7-10 cm  
**Adult Weight** 88-263 g  
**Adult Habitat** Mostly aquatic  
**Clutch / Broods** 2-6; 1-3/yr  
**Activity** Nocturnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Native to Eastern U.S. from Long Island to Florida and west to Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas  
Adaptation: Burrow in dry ground from fall to spring

Image: Diana-Terry Hibbitts CC-BY-NC

**Florida Softshell Turtle**  
*Apalone ferox*

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Reptiles



**CARN**  
Foodweb Role

**Carapace Length** 15-63 cm  
**Adult Weight** 43.6 g (avg)  
**Adult Habitat** Aquatic  
**Clutch / Broods** 9-40; 7/yr (max)  
**Activity** Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Native in the southeastern U.S. from South Carolina through Florida, west to Mobile Bay, Alabama  
Adaptation: Snap and scratch aggressively at predators

Image: Paul Cools CC-BY-NC

**Gopher Tortoise**  
*Gopherus polyphemus*

eol  
Reptiles



**HERB**  
Foodweb Role

**Carapace Length** 17-24 cm  
**Adult Weight** 5.5 kg (avg)  
**Adult Habitat** Fossorial; terrestrial  
**Clutch/Broods** 5-6; 1/yr  
**Activity** Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** VU

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Native to southeast U.S. from South Carolina through Florida, west along Gulf Coast to eastern Texas  
Adaptation: Stumpy front legs for digging

Image: http://www.birdphotos.com CC-BY

**Gulf Coast Box Turtle**  
*Terrapene carolina major*

eol  
Reptiles



**OMNI**  
Foodweb Role

**Carapace Length** 11-18 cm  
**Adult Weight** N/A  
**Adult Habitat** Terrestrial  
**Clutch / Broods** 3-8; 1/yr  
**Activity** Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** NT

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Subspecies occurs along Gulf coast from Florida panhandle to eastern Texas  
Adaptation: Very long-lived species, up to 100 years

Image: Eveha CC-BY-SA



### Loggerhead Sea Turtle

*Caretta caretta*

eol  
Reptiles



 Okaloosa County, Florida +  
Coastal Uplands 

Carapace Length	85-100 cm
Adult Weight	77-545 kg
Adult Habitat	Marine
Clutch / Broods	110-130; 4/yr
Nest Type	Pit in sand



**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Temperate, subtropical, and tropical oceans;  
largest breeding areas from North Carolina to Florida  
Adaptation: Glands near eyes to drink/filter salt water

Image: Brian Gratwicke CC-BY

### Loggerhead Musk Turtle

*Sternotherus minor*

eol  
Reptiles



 Okaloosa County, Florida +  
Freshwater Forested Wetlands 

Carapace Length	7.5-11.5 cm
Adult Weight	50-200 g
Adult Habitat	Mostly aquatic
Clutch / Broods	2-3; 3-4/yr
Activity	Cathemeral



**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Eastern Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama,  
southern Alabama and northern Florida  
Adaptation: Can obtain oxygen through skin

Image: Patrick Randall CC-BY-NC-SA

### River Cooter

*Pseudemys concinna*

eol  
Reptiles



 Okaloosa County, Florida +  
Freshwater Forested Wetlands 

Carapace Length	23-33 cm
Adult Weight	5 kg
Lifespan	40 yrs (avg)
Clutch / Broods	10-20; 2-6/yr
Activity	Diurnal



**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Virginia south to Florida, west to Alabama  
Adaptation: When hibernating in winter, stay underwater up to two months without surfacing to breathe

Image: Chris Brown CC-BY-NC

### Yellowbelly Slider

*Trachemys scripta scripta*

eol  
Reptiles



 Okaloosa County, Florida +  
Freshwater Forested Wetlands 

Carapace Length	12.5 - 29 cm
Adult Weight	240 g (avg)
Adult Habitat	Mostly aquatic
Clutch / Broods	4-23; 1-3/yr
Activity	Diurnal



**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Subspecies occurs from southern Virginia to northern Florida, west to Alabama  
Adaptation: Float at the surface by inflating throat

Image: BJ Stacey CC-BY-NC

### Banded Water Snake

*Nerodia fasciata*

eol  
Reptiles



 Okaloosa County, Florida +  
Freshwater Forested Wetlands 

Total Length	61-106 cm
Adult Weight	114-247 g
Adult Habitat	Mostly aquatic
Clutch / Broods	20 live young; 1/yr
Activity	Cathemeral



**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Central and southeastern United States  
Adaptation: Bask on logs or low branches when not hunting for amphibians in the water

Image: johnwilliams CC-BY-NC

### Brown Water Snake

*Nerodia taxispilota*

eol  
Reptiles



 Okaloosa County, Florida +  
Freshwater Forested Wetlands 

Total Length	76-152 cm
Adult Weight	250 g (avg)
Adult Habitat	Mostly aquatic
Clutch / Broods	60 live young; 1/yr
Activity	Diurnal



**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Coastal plain from Virginia through Florida, west to Alabama  
Adaptation: Pattern and head shape mimic cottonmouth

Image: 2011 Todd Pierson CC-BY-NC-SA



## Coachwhip

*Masticophis flagellum*

eol  
Reptiles



**CARN**  
Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Coastal Uplands Foodweb Role

Total Length	91-259 cm
Adult Weight	1.2-1.8 kg
Adult Habitat	Terrestrial
Clutch / Broods	4-16; 1/yr
Activity	Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Southern United States and Northern Mexico  
Adaptation: Use eyesight and scent trailing to hunt prey

Image: Judith Lopez Sikora CC-BY-NC

## Corn Snake

*Pantherophis guttatus*

eol  
Reptiles



**CARN**  
Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Hardwood Forested Uplands Foodweb Role

Total Length	48-120 cm
Adult Weight	0.9 kg (avg)
Adult Habitat	Terrestrial; arboreal
Clutch / Broods	10-30; 1/yr
Activity	Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Eastern and southern U.S., northern Mexico  
Adaptation: Males perform dominance displays toward each other during mating season

Image: 2011 Todd Pierson CC-BY-NC-SA

## Cottonmouth

*Agristrodon piscivorus*

eol  
Reptiles



**CARN**  
Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Freshwater Forested Wetlands Foodweb Role

Total Length	66-188 cm
Adult Weight	0.4-1.7 kg
Adult Habitat	Semi-aquatic
Clutch / Broods	1-16 live young; 1/yr
Activity	Nocturnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Virginia to western Missouri, south to Florida Keys and western Texas  
Adaptation: Hunt by striking prey with venomous fangs

Image: Public Health Image Library

## Diamondback Rattlesnake

*Crotalus adamanteus*

eol  
Reptiles



**CARN**  
Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Hardwood Forested Uplands Foodweb Role

Total Length	84-183 cm
Adult Weight	2.3-4.5 kg
Adult Habitat	Terrestrial
Clutch/Broods	6-21 live young; 1/yr
Activity	Crepuscular

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Native to coastal lowlands from southeast North Carolina through Florida, west to eastern Louisiana  
Adaptation: When threatened, shake rattle on end of tail

Image: 2011 Todd Pierson CC-BY-NC-SA

## Florida Scarlet Snake

*Cemophora coccinea coccinea*

eol  
Reptiles



**CARN**  
Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Pines/Sandhill Foodweb Role

Total Length	51 cm
Adult Weight	8 g
Adult Habitat	Fossorial
Clutch / Broods	2-9; 1/yr
Activity	Nocturnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: New Jersey south through Florida to Oklahoma  
Adaptation: Nonvenomous, but coloration may mimic the venomous coral snake to deter predators

Image: John Sullivan CC-BY-NC

## Common Garter Snake

*Thamnophis sirtalis*

eol  
Reptiles



**CARN**  
Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Habitat Generalist Foodweb Role

Total Length	46 - 137 cm
Adult Weight	150 g
Adult Habitat	Terrestrial
Clutch / Broods	10-40; 1/yr
Activity	Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Native across much of North America  
Adaptation: Many sleep together to maintain warmth during colder months

Image: calopteryx CC-BY-NC-SA



## Gray Rat Snake

*Pantherophis spiloides*

eol  
Reptiles



Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Hardwood Forested Uplands

CARN  
Foodweb Role

Total Length	100-260 cm
Adult Weight	> 1 kg
Adult Habitat	Terrestrial; arboreal
Clutch / Broods	5-27; 1-2/yr
Activity	Nocturnal in summer

IUCN Redlist™



### Adaptations + Energy Flow

Range: Southern Canada, northern and eastern U.S., and along Gulf Coast

Adaptation: Climb trees skillfully in search of prey

Image: Justin Guyer CC-BY-NC

## Eastern Hognose Snake

*Heterodon platirhinos*

eol  
Reptiles



Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Hardwood Forested Uplands

CARN  
Foodweb Role

Total Length	50-115 cm
Adult Weight	N/A
Adult Habitat	Fossorial; terrestrial
Clutch / Broods	4-61; 1/yr
Activity	Diurnal

IUCN Redlist™

### Geographic Range + Adaptation

Range: Southern Canada and eastern United States

Adaptation: Use wide, upturned snout to dig burrows

Image: Mark Pyle CC-BY-NC

## Eastern Indigo Snake

*Drymarchon couperi*

eol  
Reptiles



Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Pines/Sandhill

CARN  
Foodweb Role

Total Length	152-213 cm
Adult Weight	1.8-4.5 kg
Adult Habitat	Terrestrial; fossorial
Clutch / Broods	4-12; 1/yr
Activity	Diurnal

IUCN Redlist™

### Geographic Range + Adaptation

Range: Native to southern Georgia and peninsular Florida, with localized populations in Florida panhandle

Adaptation: Use gopher tortoise burrows as shelter

Image: GTM NERR CC-BY-NC

## Pigmy Rattlesnake

*Sistrurus miliarius*

eol  
Reptiles



Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Freshwater Forested Wetlands

CARN  
Foodweb Role

Total Length	30-61 cm
Adult Weight	15-30 g (avg)
Adult Habitat	Terrestrial
Clutch / Broods	2-12 live young; 1/yr
Activity	Cathemeral

IUCN Redlist™

### Geographic Range + Adaptation

Range: North Carolina to Florida, west to Oklahoma

Adaptation: A "sit-and-wait" predator, sit coiled and motionless to ambush passing prey

Image: Travis W. Reeder CC-BY-NC

## Southern Black Racer

*Coluber constrictor priapus*

eol  
Reptiles



Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Coastal Uplands

CARN  
Foodweb Role

Total Length	50-142 cm
Adult Weight	0.5 kg (avg)
Adult Habitat	Terrestrial
Clutch / Broods	3-32; 1/yr
Activity	Diurnal

IUCN Redlist™

### Geographic Range + Adaptation

Range: Subspecies occurs from Illinois to North Carolina, south to central Florida and southern Arkansas

Adaptation: Juveniles are red/brown color for camouflage

Image: 2011 Todd Pierson CC-BY-NC-SA

## Scarlet King Snake

*Lampropeltis triangulum*

eol  
Reptiles



Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Pines/Sandhill

CARN  
Foodweb Role

Total Length	35-50 cm
Adult Weight	1.2 kg (avg)
Adult Habitat	Fossorial; terrestrial
Clutch / Broods	2-9; 1/yr
Activity	Cathemeral

IUCN Redlist™

### Geographic Range + Adaptation

Range: Southern New Jersey south through Florida, west to eastern Louisiana

Adaptation: Body pattern mimics venomous coral snake

Image: 2011 Todd Pierson CC-BY-NC-SA



## Broadhead Skink

*Plestiodon laticeps*

eol  
Reptiles



A Broadhead Skink (Plestiodon laticeps) resting on green moss. The lizard has a dark brown back with a lighter belly and a distinct dark stripe along its side.

**CARN**  
Okaloosa County, Florida + Hardwood Forested Uplands Foodweb Role

**Total Length** 15-33 cm  
**Adult Weight** N/A  
**Adult Habitat** Arboreal; terrestrial  
**Clutch / Broods** 8-13; 1/yr  
**Activity** Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

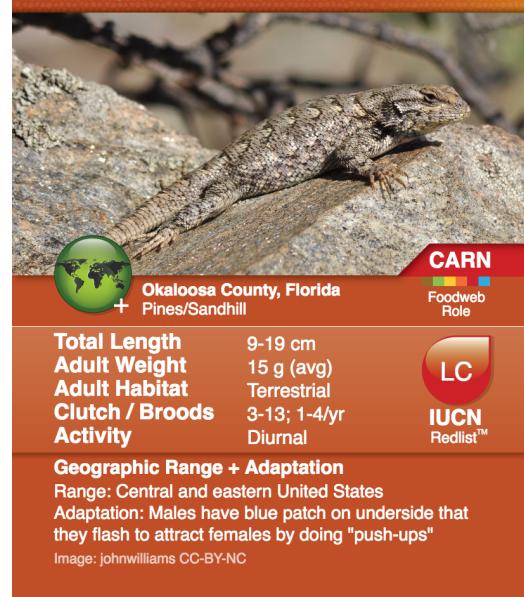
**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Central and eastern United States  
Adaptation: If attacked, juveniles can drop tails to distract predators, can regrow tails

Image: Ashley Tubbs CC-BY-NC

## Eastern Fence Lizard

*Sceloporus undulatus*

eol  
Reptiles



An Eastern Fence Lizard (Sceloporus undulatus) resting on a large, light-colored rock. The lizard has a mottled brown and tan pattern on its body.

**CARN**  
Okaloosa County, Florida + Pines/Sandhill Foodweb Role

**Total Length** 9-19 cm  
**Adult Weight** 15 g (avg)  
**Adult Habitat** Terrestrial  
**Clutch / Broods** 3-13; 1-4/yr  
**Activity** Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Central and eastern United States  
Adaptation: Males have blue patch on underside that they flash to attract females by doing "push-ups"

Image: johnwilliams CC-BY-NC

## Five-lined Skink

*Plestiodon fasciatus*

eol  
Reptiles



A Five-lined Skink (Plestiodon fasciatus) resting on green moss. The lizard features five distinct blue stripes running along its body, bordered by black lines, with a red tail.

**CARN**  
Okaloosa County, Florida + Urban Habitats Foodweb Role

**Total Length** 12.7-21.6 cm  
**Adult Weight** N/A  
**Adult Habitat** Terrestrial  
**Clutch / Broods** 15-18; 1/yr  
**Activity** Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

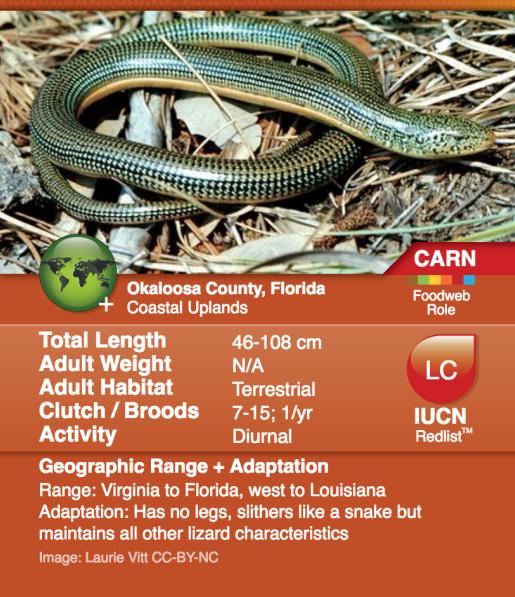
**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Eastern United States and Southern Canada  
Adaptation: Juveniles have bright blue tails, and lose coloration as they age

Image: Ashley Tubbs CC-BY-NC

## Eastern Glass Lizard

*Ophisaurus ventralis*

eol  
Reptiles



An Eastern Glass Lizard (Ophisaurus ventralis) resting on dry pine needles. The lizard has a long, slender body and a pattern of dark spots along its back.

**CARN**  
Okaloosa County, Florida + Coastal Uplands Foodweb Role

**Total Length** 46-108 cm  
**Adult Weight** N/A  
**Adult Habitat** Terrestrial  
**Clutch / Broods** 7-15; 1/yr  
**Activity** Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

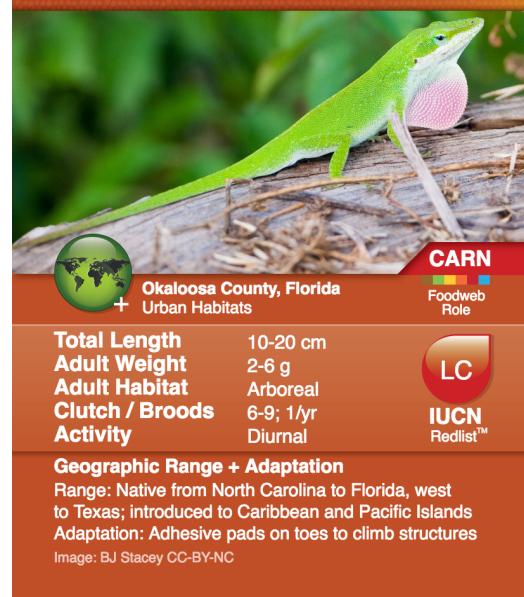
**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Virginia to Florida, west to Louisiana  
Adaptation: Has no legs, slithers like a snake but maintains all other lizard characteristics

Image: Laurie Vitt CC-BY-NC

## Green Anole

*Anolis carolinensis*

eol  
Reptiles



A Green Anole (Anolis carolinensis) resting on a piece of wood. The lizard is a vibrant green color with a pinkish-red dewlap visible.

**CARN**  
Okaloosa County, Florida + Urban Habitats Foodweb Role

**Total Length** 10-20 cm  
**Adult Weight** 2-6 g  
**Adult Habitat** Arboreal  
**Clutch / Broods** 6-9; 1/yr  
**Activity** Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

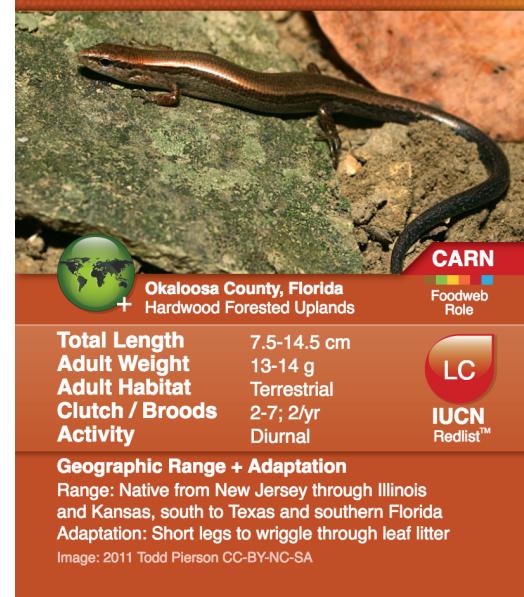
**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Native from North Carolina to Florida, west to Texas; introduced to Caribbean and Pacific Islands  
Adaptation: Adhesive pads on toes to climb structures

Image: BJ Stacey CC-BY-NC

## Ground Skink

*Scincella lateralis*

eol  
Reptiles



A Ground Skink (Scincella lateralis) resting on a leafy surface. The lizard has a dark brown or blackish body with a lighter belly.

**CARN**  
Okaloosa County, Florida + Hardwood Forested Uplands Foodweb Role

**Total Length** 7.5-14.5 cm  
**Adult Weight** 13-14 g  
**Adult Habitat** Terrestrial  
**Clutch / Broods** 2-7; 2/yr  
**Activity** Diurnal

**IUCN Redlist™** LC

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Native from New Jersey through Illinois and Kansas, south to Texas and southern Florida  
Adaptation: Short legs to wriggle through leaf litter

Image: 2011 Todd Pierson CC-BY-NC-SA



Mediterranean House Gecko  
*Hemidactylus turcicus*

A close-up photograph of a Mediterranean House Gecko, showing its light-colored body with dark spots and its long, thin tail.

 eol  
Reptiles

 CARN  
Foodweb Role

 Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Urban Habitats

**Total Length** 7.5-15 cm  
**Adult Weight** 3.5 g  
**Adult Habitat** Arboreal (structures)  
**Clutch / Broods** 2; 1+/yr  
**Activity** Nocturnal

 LC  
IUCN Redlist™

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Native to Southeast Asia; introduced to southeast U.S.  
Adaptation: Adhesive toes to climb walls and ceilings

Image: 2011 Todd Pierson CC-BY-NC-SA

Six-lined Racerunner  
*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*

A photograph of a Six-lined Racerunner lizard, showing its long body, stripes, and long tail.

 eol  
Reptiles

 CARN  
Foodweb Role

 Okaloosa County, Florida  
+ Urban Habitats

**Total Length** 15-24 cm  
**Adult Weight** 200 g  
**Adult Habitat** Terrestrial  
**Clutch / Broods** 4-6; 1/yr  
**Activity** Diurnal

 LC  
IUCN Redlist™

**Geographic Range + Adaptation**  
Range: Maryland to Florida, north to Wisconsin, west to Wyoming, south to New Mexico, Texas, and Gulf coast  
Adaptation: Uses long tail to increase speed/balance

Image: 2011 Todd Pierson CC-BY-NC-SA

 eol species cards

**Adaptation:** A physical characteristic or behavior that helps an organism survive in its environment

**Adult Habitat:** The place an adult reptile lives and finds its resources: arboreal (in trees), terrestrial (on ground), fossorial (burrowing), or aquatic (in water)

**Brood:** Group of young produced at one time

**Cathemeral:** Active during the day and night

**Clutch Size:** Number of eggs laid in a nest at one time

**Crepuscular:** Active at dawn and dusk

**Diurnal:** Active during the day

**Nocturnal:** Active during the night

**Total Length:** The length from tip of nose to tail

**Vocabulary**

