National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Cypress National Preserve
Florida

Reptiles of the Swamp...

Probably the most noticeable animal within the Everglades and the Big Cypress Swamp is the American alligator. This large reptile is commonly seen during the winter dry seasons when water is scarce.

Other reptiles include snakes, crocodillians, skinks, geckos, turtles and lizards. Reptiles are animals that have scales and breath air. Many of the species classified in this group lay eggs.

These animals are often misunderstood and feared. However, they play a vital role in the environment. For example, if it were not for alligators making "gator holes" many species that depend on water would perish during South Florida's dry season.

Compare the American crocodile photo (above) with the Amerian alligator photo (cover page). Can you discern the differences in appearance?

	Scientific Name
CROCODILIANS	
Alligators	
___American alligator	*Alligator Mississippiensis*
Also known as: Florida, Louisiana, or Mississppi alligator, gator	
Crocodiles	
___American crocodile	*Crocodylus acutus*
Also known as: Caiman de la costa, cocodrilo de tumbes, Central American alligator, cocodrilo, lagarto	

Watching wildlife the responsible way...

The thrill of watching a wild animal in its native surroundings is spectacular and awe inspiring. While visiting Big Cypress National Preserve, or any other natural area, remember:

- All wildlife is wild and unpredictable. Stay a safe distance from any wild animal —15 feet is recommended.
- View wildlife with respect.
- Never feed wildlife.
- All plants and animals within national park areas are protected, it is illegal to collect any wildlife without special permits.

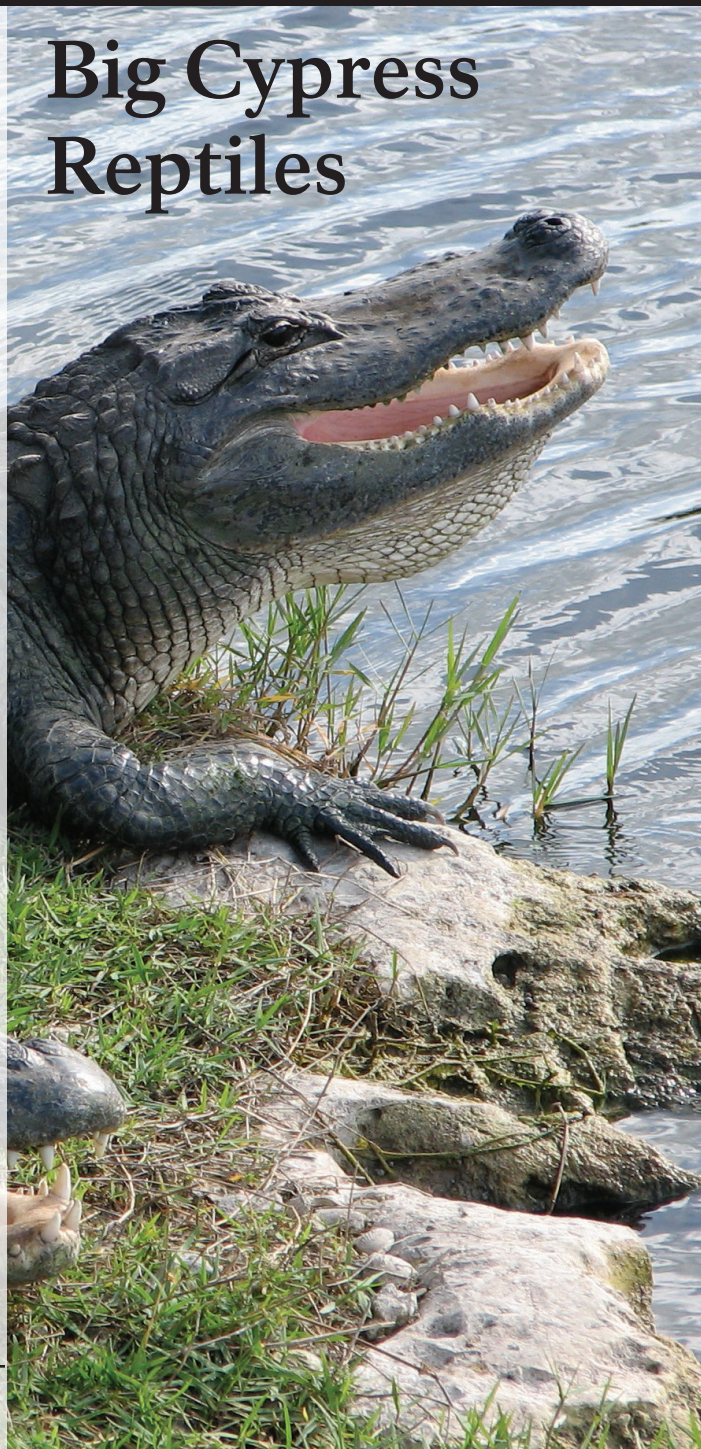
How You Behave Can Save

Do Not Feed or Harass Wildlife

Big Cypress National Preserve
Preserve — Protect — Enjoy

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA!

Big Cypress Reptiles



TURTLES, TORTOISES, TERRAPINS

Snapping turtles

	Scientific Name
___Florida snapping turtle	*Chelydra serpentina osceola*

Small Turtles

___Striped mud turtle	*Kinosternon baurii*
___Florida mud turtle	*Kinosternon subrubrum steindachneri*
___Common musk turtle	*Sternotherus odoratus*

Box and water turtles

___Peninsula cooter	*Pseudemys floridana peninsularis*
___Florida red-bellied turtle	*Pseudemys nelsoni*
___Florida chicken turtle	*Deirochelys reticularia chrysea*
___Florida box turtle	*Terrapene carolina bauri*

Tortoises

___Gopher tortoise	*Gopherus polyphemus*

Softshelled Turtles

___ Florida softshell turtle	*Apalone ferox*

LIZARDS

Geckos

___Indo-Pacific gecko*	*Hemidactylus garnotii*
___Mediterranean gecko*	*Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus*
___Cosmopolitan house gecko*	*Hemidactylus mabouia*

Anoles

___Green anole	*Anolis carolinensis*
___Brown anole*	*Anolis sagrei*

Iguanas

___Green iguana*	*Iguana iguana*

Skinks

___Southeastern five-lined skink	*Eumeces inexpectatus*
___Ground skink	*Scincella lateralis*

reptile name* = introduced species

SCALED REPTILES

Legless Lizards

___Slender glass lizard	*Ophisaurus attenuatus*
___**Island glass lizard**	*Ophisaurus compressus*
___**Eastern glass lizard**	*Ophisaurus ventralis*

Snakes

___Burmese python*	*Python molorus bivittaus*
___Florida scarlet snake	*Cemophora coccinea coccinea*
___Everglades racer	*Coluber constrictor paludicola*
___Southern ringneck snake	*Diadophis punctatus punctatus*
___Eastern inidgo snake	*Drymarchon corais couperi*
___Corn snake	*Elaphe guttata guttata*
___Yellow rat snake	*Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata*
___Everglades rat snake	*Elaphe obsoleta rossalleni*
___Eastern mud snake	*Farancia abacura abacura*
___Eastern hog-nosed snake	*Heterodon platirhinos*
___Florida kingsnake	*Lampropeltis getula floridana*
___Eastern kingsnake	*Lampropeltis getula getula*
___Scarlet kingsnake	*Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides*
___Eastern coachwhip	*Masticophis flagellum flagellum*
___Florida green water snake	*Nerodia floridana*
___Mangrove salt marsh snake	*Nerodia clarkii compressicauda*
___Brown water snake	*Nerodia taxispilota*
___Rough green snake	*Opheodrys aestivus*
___Striped crayfish snake	*Regina alleni*
___South Florida swamp snake	*Seminatrix pygaea cyclas*
___Florida brown snake	*Storeria dekayi victa*
___Peninsula ribbon snake	*Thamnophis sauritus sackenii*
___Common garter snake	*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*

Elapids *Venomous*

___Eastern coral snake	*Micrurus fulvius fulvius*

Vipers *Venomous*

___Dusky pigmy rattlesnake	*Sistrurus miliarius barbouri*
___Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	*Crotalus adamanteus*
___Florida cottomouth	*Agkistrodon piscivorus conanti*

Blind snakes

___Brahminy blind snake*	*Rhamphotyphlops braminus*

Reptiles of Big Cypress...
Left to right: Peninsula cooter (***Pseudemys floridana peninsularis***); Corn snake (***Elaphe guttata guttata***);Scarlet kingsnake (***Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides***); Eastern coral snake (***Micrurus fulvius fulvius***).

Reptile Checklist_FINAL.indd on HQ shareall, interp publications, 2,000 printed, 10/2011, stored at Oasis and WC