

Okefenokee

National Wildlife Refuge

Amphibians, Fish, Mammals and Reptiles List

The Okefenokee swamp is covered with cypress, blackgum, and bay forests scattered throughout a flooded prairie made of grasses, sedges, and various aquatic plants. The peripheral upland and the almost 70 islands within the swamp are forested with pine interspersed with hardwood hammocks. Lakes of varying sizes and depths, and floating sections of the peat bed, are also part of the Okefenokee terrain.

People have left their mark on the swamp. A 12-mile long canal was dug into the eastern prairies in the 1890's in a failed attempt to drain the swamp. During the early 1900's large amounts of timber were removed, so that very few areas of virgin forest remain. In an attempt to reduce the potential for wildfires, a sill was built in the early 1960's to control the water flowing out of the Okefenokee into the Suwannee River.

The Okefenokee is a rainfall-dependent system, and when periods of drought occur, the area becomes susceptible to wildfire. A 20/30 year cycle of drought and fire has allowed the Okefenokee to exist as the unique wetland it is. These periods cause changes in the abundance of certain plants (more grasses growing in exposed areas,) the nesting success of certain wading birds (failure in extreme drought), and the location of some species of wildlife (fish migrate into deeper lakes and channels and are followed by predators.)

With its varied habitats, the Okefenokee has become an area known for its abundance of plants and animals. There are over 620 species of plants growing in the swamp. Animals include 39 fish, 37 amphibian, 64 reptile, 234 bird, and 50 mammal species. Use the following list to help identify Okefenokee inhabitants.

Mammals

___ Virginia Opossum

(*Didelphis virginiana pigna*). Common on the swamp edge and the islands within the Swamp. A night prowler. "Pogo" is often seen by campers.

___ Southern Short-Tailed Shrew

(*Barina carolinensis*). A specimen was found on Floyds Island June 12, 1921. It kills its prey with poisonous saliva.

___ Least Shrew

(*Cryptotus parva parva*). Rarely seen but probably fairly common. Specimens have been found on several of the islands, on the swamp edge, and in the pine woods around the swamp.

___ Eastern Mole

(*Scalopus aquaticus australis*). Generally distributed on the upland adjacent to the swamp and has been found on some of the islands within the swamp.

___ Star-Nosed Mole

(*Condylura cristata*). Apparently rare. Nose surrounded by finger like, fleshy projections.

___ Southeastern Myotis

(*Myotis austroriparius austroriparius*). Species of bat native to Southeast Georgia.

___ Eastern Pipistrelle

(*Pipistrellus subflavus subflavus*). A fairly common species in the area. One of the smallest eastern bats.

___ Big Brown Bat

(*Eptesicus fuscus fuscus*). An uncommon species in the area. The fastest known bat with speeds of 40 mph.

___ Red Bat

(*Lasiurus borealis borealis*). An uncommon species in the area. One of the few mammals in which males and females are different colors.

___ Seminole Bat

(*Lasiurus seminolus*). A common bat of the Okefenokee which is found hanging in Spanish Moss during the day.

___ Hoary Bat

(*Lasiurus cinereus cinereus*). This yellowish-brown bat flies high in the air late at night and will hang in trees when resting. It is the largest bat in the East and eats mostly moths.

___ Northern Yellow Bat

(*Lasiurus intermedius floridanus*). Apparently a rare species in the area. It likes to feed in groups.

___ Evening Bat

(*Nycticeius humeralis*). Once the most common bat in the swamp, it is now uncommon due to the decreases in man-made structures which are common nursery sites. It flies lower as the night progresses.

___ Rafinesque's Big-Eared Bat

(*Plecotus rafinesquii*). A rather uncommon species in the area. They can hover like butterflies to pick off insects and fold their ears when at rest.

___ Brazilian Free-Tailed Bat

(*Tadarida brasiliensis cynocephala*). An uncommon species in this area. One of the highest flying bats.

___ Armadillo

(*Dasyus novemcinctus mexicanus*). This unusual "ground" mammal was first seen on the refuge in 1968. Since then it has become more numerous and is commonly seen along roadways and trails.

___ Marsh Rabbit

(*Sylvilagus palustris palustris*). Fairly common on the swamp edge. Frequently takes to water to escape enemies and often walks on its hind legs. Tail is gray underneath.

*Indicates endangered or threatened

Okefenokee
National Wildlife Refuge
2700 Suwannee Canal Road
Folkston, GA 31537
912/496 7836 voice/TDD
<http://www.fws.gov/okefenokee>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>
1 800/344 WILD

July 2009



Mammals continued

Eastern Cottontail

(*Sylvilagus floridanus mallurus*). Common around clearings and in the more sparse pine woods on the uplands surrounding the swamp and on some of the islands. Females have territories and males may be seen in courtship dances at night.

Gray Squirrel

(*Sciurus carolinensis carolinensis*). Abundant in the blackgum bay forests in the swamp and in the oak woodlands on the upland.

Fox Squirrel

(*Sciurus niger niger*). Uncommon in the pine forests surrounding the swamp and along roads. Its head is black with white on the ears and nose.

Southern Flying Squirrel

(*Glaucomys volans querceti*). This species is rarely seen because of its nocturnal habits, but is fairly common, particularly in pine/oak uplands.

Georgia Pocket Gopher

(*Geomys pinetis pinetis*). Uncommon on dry, sandy sites on the east side of the swamp. Rarely seen above ground.

Southeastern Pocket Gopher

(*Geomys pinetis floridianus*). An uncommon species of this area.

Beaver

(*Castor canadensis carolinensis*). The first record of beavers in the swamp was in 1969. Their population, never very high, varies from time to time, probably because of alligators.

Marsh Rice Rat

(*Oryzomys palustris palustris*). A fairly common mammal throughout the swamp.

Eastern Harvest Mouse

(*Reithrodontomys humilis humilis*). Found in the prairies and in old fields near the swamp's edge.

Oldfield Mouse

(*Peromyscus polionotus polionotus*). Feeds on seeds and berries.

Cotton Mouse

(*Ochrotomys nuttalli aureolis*). Common throughout the area. Found under palmetto scrub. Good tree climber and swimmer.

Golden Mouse

(*Ochrotomys nuttalli aureolis*). This species is probably rare. It has been found in hammocks on the islands. It uses its long tail for balance while running along high tree limbs.

Hispid Cotton Rat

(*Signodon hispidus hispidus*). A common mammal in the pine woods and old fields on the upland around the swamp.

Eastern Woodrat

(*Neotoma floridana floridana*). Fairly common throughout the swamp and in the hammocks on the upland. Also known locally as the Packrat because of its habit of building a huge pile of sticks for its nest, and for collecting shiny objects.

Woodland Vole

(*Microtus pinetorum parvulus*). Tunnels through leaf mold and loose soil near the surface of the upland areas and eats bulbs, tubers, and seeds.

Round-Tailed Muskrat

(*Neofiber alleni exoristus*). Occasionally seen in the prairies where a bulky grass house is constructed over the water along with a feeding platform.

Black Rat

(*Rattus rattus rattus*). This was the common barn rat when farming was practiced on some of the islands within the swamp. It probably occurs now on farmsteads in the vicinity but not on the refuge.

Roof Rat

(*Rattus rattus alexandrinus*). It was a common barn rat when farming was practiced in the swamp but it probably occurs now only in the vicinity.

House Mouse

(*Mus musculus musculus*). Formerly common around habitations but now that few people live within the swamp, it has probably disappeared from the area. Very likely it is still common around human habitations in the vicinity of the swamp.

Gray Fox

(*Urocyon cinereoargenteus floridanus*). Fairly common on the upland around the swamp. Has the ability to climb trees.

Red Fox

(*Vulpes fulva fulva*). This species is rare but occurs occasionally on the upland in the vicinity of the swamp.

Black Bear

(*Ursus americanus floridianus*). Bears range throughout the refuge. Look for them wherever berries and acorns area abundant.

Raccoon

(*Procyon lotor elucus*). The most abundant large mammal on the refuge. It is found in all habitats but is most numerous on the swamp edge. They are commonly seen in areas and occasionally along boat trails.

Long-Tailed Weasel

(*Mustela frenata olivacea*). This species is probably more common than the few observations would indicate. Specimens have been found on Billy's Island and on Chesser Island.

Mink

(*Mustela vison mink*). Very rarely seen in the Okefenokee, this chiefly nocturnal animal is an excellent swimmer.

Striped Skunk

(*Mephitis mephitis elongata*). This species is generally distributed on the upland surrounding the swamp and is found occasionally on the islands.

River Otter

(*Lontra canadensis vaga*). Occasionally observed along the water courses, especially during the winter.

Florida Panther*

(*Felis concolor coryi*). Apparently this species was never more than of rare occurrence in the vicinity of the swamp.

Bobcat

(*Lynx rufus floridanus*). Common throughout the swamp and on the surrounding uplands. Occasionally seen along Swamp Island Drive.

Wild Pig

(*Sus scrofa*). These feral pigs were introduced by the early settlers of the swamp.

White-Tailed Deer

(*Odocoileus virginianus*). These deer can be found throughout the refuge even travelling across prairies from island to island.

Fish

Florida Gar

(*Lepisosteus platyrhincus*)

Bowfin (*Amia calva*)

American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)

Redfin Pickerel

(*Esox americanus americanus*)

Chain Pickerel (*Esox niger*)

Eastern Mudminnow

(*Umbra pygmaea*)

Lake Chubsucker

(*Erimyzon sucetta*)

Spotted Chubsucker

(*Minytrema melanops*)

Yellow Bullhead

(*Ictalurus natalis*)

Brown Bullhead

(*Ictalurus nebulosus*)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service / Okefenokee NWR Amphibians, Fish, Mammals and Reptiles List

Fish continued

- _____ **Channel Catfish** (*Ictalurus punctatus*)
- _____ **Tadpole Madtom** (*Noturus gyrinus*)
- _____ **Speckled Madtom** (*Noturus leptacanthus*)
- _____ **Pirate Perch** (*Aphredoderus sayanus*)
- _____ **Golden Topminnow** (*Fundulus chrysotus*)
- _____ **Banded Topminnow** (*Fundulus cingulatus*)
- _____ **Lined Topminnow** (*Fundulus lineolatus*)
- _____ **Starhead Topminnow** (*Fundulus notti*)
- _____ **Pygmy Killifish** (*Leptolucania ommata*)
- _____ **Mosquitofish** (*Gambusia affinis*)
- _____ **Least Killifish** (*Heterandria formosa*)
- _____ **Brook Silverside** (*Labidesthes sicculus*)
- _____ **Everglades Pygmy Sunfish** (*Elassoma evergladei*)
- _____ **Okefenokee Pygmy Sunfish** (*Elassoma okefenokee*)
- _____ **Mud Sunfish** (*Acantharchus pomotis*)
- _____ **Flier** (*Centrarchus macropterus*)
- _____ **Blackbanded Sunfish** (*Enneacanthus chaetodon*)
- _____ **Bluespotted Sunfish** (*Enneacanthus gloriosus*)
- _____ **Banded Sunfish** (*Enneacanthus obesus*)
- _____ **Redbreast Sunfish** (*Lepomis auritus*)
- _____ **Warmouth** (*Lepomis gulosus*)
- _____ **Bluegill** (*Lepomis macrochirus*)
- _____ **Dollar Sunfish** (*Lepomis marginatus*)
- _____ **Spotted Sunfish** (*Lepomis punctatus*)
- _____ **Largemouth Bass** (*Micropterus salmoides*)
- _____ **Black Crappie** (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)
- _____ **Scalyhead Darter** (*Etheostoma barratti*)
- _____ **Swamp Darter** (*Etheostoma Fusiforme*)
- _____ **Blackbanded Darter** (*Percina nigrofasciata*)

Toads and Frogs

- _____ **Oak Toad** (*Bufo quercicus*)
- _____ **Southern Toad** (*Bufo terrestris*)
- _____ **Florida Cricket Frog** (*Acris gryllus dorsalis*)
- _____ **Gray Treefrog** (*Hyla chrysoscelis*)
- _____ **Green Treefrog** (*Hyla cinerea cinerea*)
- _____ **Southern Spring Peeper** (*Hyla crucifer bartramiana*)
- _____ **Pine Woods Treefrog** (*Hyla femoralis*)
- _____ **Barking Treefrog** (*Hyla gratiosa*)
- _____ **Squirrel Treefrog** (*Hyla squirella*)
- _____ **Little Grass Frog** (*Limnaoedus ocularis*)
- _____ **Southern Chorus Frog** (*Pseudacris nigrita nigrita*)
- _____ **Ornate Chorus Frog** (*Pseudacris ornata*)
- _____ **Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad**
(*Gastrophryne carolinensis*)
- _____ **Eastern Spadefoot Toad**
(*Scaphiopus holbrooki holbrooki*)
- _____ **Florida Gopher Frog** (*Rana areolata aescopus*)

- _____ **Bullfrog** (*Rana catesbeiana*)
- _____ **Bronze Frog** (*Rana clamitans clamitans*)
- _____ **Pig Frog** (*Rana grylio*)
- _____ **River Frog** (*Rana heckscheri*)
- _____ **Southern Leopard Frog** (*Rana utricularia*)
- _____ **Carpenter Frog** (*Rana virgatipes*)

Salamanders

- _____ **Flatwoods Salamander** (*Ambystoma cingulatum*)
- _____ **Marbled Salamander** (*Ambystoma opacum*)
- _____ **Mole Salamander** (*Ambystoma talpoideum*)
- _____ **Tiger Salamander** (*Ambystoma tigrinum*)
- _____ **Two-toed Amphiuma** (*Amphiuma means*)
- _____ **Southern Dusky Salamander**
(*Desmognathus fuscus auriculatus*)
- _____ **Southern Two-lined Salamander**
(*Eurycea bislineata cirriger*)
- _____ **Dwarf Salamander** (*Eurycea quadridigitatus*)
- _____ **Slimy Salamander**
(*Plethodon glutinosus glutinosus*)
- _____ **Gulf Coast Mud Salamander**
(*Pseudotriton montanus Floridanus*)
- _____ **Many-lined Salamander** (*Stereochilus marginatus*)
- _____ **Striped Newt** (*Notophthalmus perstriatus*)
- _____ **Central Newt**
(*Notophthalmus viridescens louisianensis*)
- _____ **Drawf Siren** (*Pseudobranchius striatus* spp.)
- _____ **Eastern Lesser Siren** (*Siren intermedia intermedia*)
- _____ **Greater Siren** (*Siren lacertina*)

Crocodylians

- _____ **American Alligator*** (*Alligator mississippiensis*)

Lizards

- _____ **Eastern Slender Glass Lizard** (*Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus*)
- _____ **Island Glass Lizard** (*Ophisaurus compressus*)
- _____ **Eastern Glass Lizard** (*Ophisaurus ventralis*)
- _____ **Green Anole** (*Anolis carolinensis*)
- _____ **Southern Fence Lizard**
(*Sceloporus undulatus undulatus*)
- _____ **Northern Mole Skink** (*Eumeces egregius*)
- _____ **Five-lined Skink** (*Eumeces fasciatus*)
- _____ **Southern Five-lined Skink** (*Eumeces inexpectatus*)
- _____ **Broad-headed Skink** (*Eumeces laticeps*)
- _____ **Ground Skink** (*Scincella laterale*)
- _____ **Six-lined Race Runner**
(*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus sexlineatus*)

Snakes

- _____ **Northern Scarlet Snake** (*Cemophora coccinea copei*)
- _____ **Southern Black Racer** (*Coluber constrictor priapus*)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service / Okefenokee NWR Amphibians, Fish, Mammals and Reptiles List

- _____ **Southern Ring-necked Snake**
(*Diadophis punctatus punctatus*)
- _____ **Indigo Snake*** (*Drymarchon corais couperi*)
- _____ **Corn Snake** (*Elaphe guttata guttata*)
- _____ **Yellow Rat Snake** (*Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata*)
- _____ **Gray Rat Snake** (*Elaphe obsoleta spiloides*)
- _____ **Eastern Mud Snake** (*Farancia abacura abacura*)
- _____ **Rainbow Snake** (*Farancia erythrogramma*)
- _____ **Eastern Hognose Snake** (*Heterodon platyrhinos*)
- _____ **Southern Hognose Snake** (*Heterodon simus*)
- _____ **Mole Snake** (*Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata*)
- _____ **Eastern Kingsnake** (*Lampropeltis getulus*)
- _____ **Scarlet Kingsnake** (*Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides*)
- _____ **Eastern Coachwhip** (*Masticophis flagellum flagellum*)
- _____ **Florida Green Water Snake**
(*Nerodia cyclopion floridana*)
- _____ **Yellow-bellied Water Snake**
(*Nerodia erythrogaster erythrogaster*)
- _____ **Banded Water Snake** (*Nerodia fasciata fasciata*)
- _____ **Florida Water Snake** (*Nerodia fasciata pictiventris*)
- _____ **Brown Water Snake** (*Nerodia taxispilota*)
- _____ **Rough Green Snake** (*Opheodrys aestivus*)
- _____ **Florida Pine Snake** (*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitis*)
- _____ **Striped Swamp Snake** (*Regina alleni*)
- _____ **Eastern Glossy Water Snake** (*Regina rigda rigida*)
- _____ **Pine Woods Snake** (*Rhadinaea flavilata*)
- _____ **North Florida Black Swamp Snake**
(*Seminatrix pygaea pygaea*)
- _____ **Florida Brown Snake** (*Storeria dekayi victa*)
- _____ **Florida Red-bellied Snake**
(*Storeria occipitomaculata obscura*)
- _____ **Eastern Ribbon Snake** (*Thamnophis sauritus sackeni*)
- _____ **Eastern Garter Snake** (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*)
- _____ **Rough Earth Snake** (*Virginia striatula*)
- _____ **Eastern Smooth Earth Snake**
(*Virginia valeriae valeriae*)
- _____ **Eastern Coral Snake** (*micrurus fulvius*)
- _____ **Florida Cottonmouth** (*Agkistrodon piscivorus conanti*)
- _____ **Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake**
(*Crotalus adamanteus*)
- _____ **Canebrake Rattlesnake**
(*Crotalus horridus atricaudatus*)
- _____ **Dusky Pigmy Rattlesnake**
(*Sistrurus miliarius barbouri*)

Turtles

- _____ **Common Snapping Turtle**
(*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*)
- _____ **Alligator Snapping Turtle** (*Macrolemys temmincki*)
- _____ **Florida Red-bellied Turtle** (*Chrysemys nelsoni*)
- _____ **Eastern Chicken Turtle**
(*Deirochelys reticularia reticularia*)

- _____ **Florida Cooter** (*Pseudemys floridana floridana*)
- _____ **Red-eared Pond Slider** (*Pseudemys scripta elegans*)
- _____ **Yellow-bellied Pond Slider** (*Pseudemys scripta scripta*)
- _____ **Florida Box Turtle** (*Terrapene carolina bauri*)
- _____ **Eastern Box Turtle** (*Terrapene carolina carolina*)
- _____ **Striped Mud Turtle** (*Kinosternon bauri palmarum*)
- _____ **Eastern Mud Turtle**
(*Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum*)
- _____ **Loggerhead Musk Turtle** (*Sternotherus minor minor*)
- _____ **Stinkpot** (*Sternotherus odoratus*)
- _____ **Gopher Tortoise** (*Gopherus polyphemus*)
- _____ **Florida Softshell** (*Trionyx ferox*)

Observations of unusual species should be filed with Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Other sightings are also welcomed. Please record numbers and locations.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is, working with others, to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The National Wildlife Refuge System provides habitat for threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, and some of the Nation's most important fishery resources. It is the only network of Federal lands devoted specifically to wildlife. The System offers outstanding wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, including fishing, hunting, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

Sighting Notes

Date _____

Time _____

To _____

Locality _____

Weather _____

Temperature _____

Wind _____

Sky _____

Total Species _____

Comments _____