

Redback Salamander

Redback Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*) - Pl.25

Identification: 2 1/4" - 5". The Redback Salamander is a skinny little salamander that comes in two distinct forms: (1) redback (red phase) has a red, orange, yellow or gray stripe with straight borders, running from the base of the head to the tail; (2) leadback (lead phase) has a dark gray or black back which blends into the sides. In both forms, the coloration looks mottled or speckled. The sides are dark. The underside is mottled with black and white or yellow. A few individuals may be all red.

Where to find them: Quite common throughout most of its range; it is found in wooded areas under logs, bark, stones, and even trash.

When to find them: Spring through fall. Active on rainy summer nights.

Range: Entire state.

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Key Features

- **Two forms: redback and leadback.**
- **Redback: straight-edged, reddish stripe down back & black to gray sides.**
- **Leadback: Black to gray backs that blend with sides.**



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Excerpt from: "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey"
Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>