

4-H Tidelands Nature Center: Exhibit Area

Reptile and Bird Display

Our reptile and bird display area features young alligators, several species of snakes, and turtles including; yellow-bellied sliders, diamondback terrapins, gopher tortoises, and box turtles! You will also find preserved bird species and photographs of common Jekyll birds.



Alligator - The American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) is one of only two alligator species in the world today. (The other is the highly endangered Chinese alligator). Once common throughout the Southeast, the American alligator was hunted nearly to extinction. It was protected by federal law in 1967, and populations of this ancient reptile have now fully recovered.

Diamondback Terrapin - Diamondback terrapins are the only turtles to live in the brackish water of the salt marshes along the east coast. These turtles were once hunted for soup, but now their biggest threat is roadways. In their search for dry land, female terrapins cross the causeways to Jekyll and St. Simons during the summer.



Snapping Turtle - The common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) is one of many freshwater turtles that inhabit the ponds and sloughs of Jekyll Island. These turtles can grow to 85 lbs. They have powerful jaws and sharp beaks, which they use to eat plants, fish, frogs, insects, snakes, and even dead animals.



Corn Snake - Of the more than 40 species of snakes native to Georgia, the corn snake (*Elaphe guttata*) is one of the most beautiful. These non-venomous snakes are named for the maize-like pattern of black-and-white scales on their undersides. They eat mice and other small rodents. *Did you know:* It is illegal to kill, capture or harass any non-venomous snake in the state of Georgia.