

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: 2-4 inches

Weight: 21.77 grams

Color: Olive with dusty grey, brown, and black

General: One or two large warts in the largest dark spots; large warts on their lower hind legs; dark spots on chest and belly

Usually Found: Moist woodlands, gardens, backyards, agricultural fields



Did You Know?

- The American Toad (*Bufo americanus*) is dormant during the winter, awakes in the spring to breed in water, and lives the rest of the year in moist areas close to a water source.
- The toad's warts contain glands which produce a poisonous milky-fluid that protects them from predation.
- Toads vocalize frequently in 6-30 second-long trills. Males use this trill as a way to attract mates during the breeding season.
- Females lay 4,000-8,000 eggs in rows which, when stretched, can measure up to 66 feet long!

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- First appearance of the toad on land
- First appearance on water
- First time one or more individuals are heard vocalizing

Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this animal is impacted by environmental changes.

How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:

Phenology Blog:

<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>

or sent to phenology@lgnc.org

Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,
phenology@lgnc.org

What is Phenology? According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of "recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds."

(www.usanpn.org)