

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: 7-9 inches

Color: Black, gray, or bluish black on top with yellow or oranges spots; gray belly

General: Up to 50 spots

Usually Found: Any place dark and damp, such as woodland ponds, beneath stones or boards in moist soil, forests near floodplains



Did You Know?

- The spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) excretes a toxic milky substance from the glands on its back and tail when it senses danger.
- Each year, spotted salamanders follow the same route to the same mating pool.
- Females lay a mass of 1-200 eggs in water.
- A spotted salamander can live up to 20 years in the wild!
- The largest spotted salamander ever recorded was just under 10 inches.

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- First appearance of the salamander
- First appearance of salamander eggs in vernal pools

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:
<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)