

Have you seen a...

Spring Peeper

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: ¾ of an inch- 1.5 inches

Weight: 3 to 5 grams

Color: Shades of tan, brown, yellow, olive, or gray with a dark cross on the back that forms an X

General: Large, sticky pads on their toes that are used for climbing

Usually Found: Wooded areas and grassy lowlands near ponds and swamps



Did You Know?

- Spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*) are nocturnal animals and a part of the tree frog family (Hylidae).
- The species name “crucifer” refers to the cross-shaped marking on its back.
- The name “spring peeper” derives from their high-pitched vocalizations, which are a harbinger of spring.
- Spring peepers “peep” in the form of a high-pitched ascending whistle and a chorus of them peeping sounds like the jingle of sleigh bells.
- They hibernate under logs or in the loose bark of trees and live through the winter, despite the cold temperatures which cause their bodies to freeze.

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The first night their vocalizations are heard
- The last night their vocalizations are heard

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)