



Strecker's Chorus Frog. Copyright Dick Bartlett.

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March 2013

Greetings FrogWatch USA™ Volunteers

The vernal equinox was March 20th, marking the first day of spring. Plants and animals have been announcing the impending arrival of spring in some states since early February; although, it may not feel like spring in other parts of the country. Here is a snapshot of what our FrogWatch USA community has reported hearing during the first month-and-a-half of monitoring:

- Sierran treefrog, western spadefoot, and western toad in California
- Spring peeper, upland chorus frog, pickerel frog, and southern leopard frog in South Carolina
- Pig frog and southern chorus frog in Mississippi
- Wood frog and spring peeper in Maryland

Moreover, new wetland monitoring sites have been registered in Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington DC, and West Virginia.

Spring is here! What do you hear? If you are a new participant, locate a Frogwatch USA chapter near you and register to attend a volunteer training by visiting www.aza.org/become-a-frogwatch-volunteer. To our returning volunteers - welcome back! Visit www.aza.org/current-frogwatch-volunteers/ to review and obtain observation datasheets, and encourage your family and friends to join the FrogWatch USA fun!

Welcome to the 2013 FrogWatch USA season. We look forward to your participation.

Share Your Stories

FrogWatch USA volunteer Sylvia of Illinois, visited her site during the day in March 2012 to see American toads actively breeding where she heard them previously (**right**). Are they calling again in March 2013 in Illinois or has it been too cold?

Lori, a FrogWatch USA volunteer in California, shared "I've been a volunteer for over 10 years. Anyone can participate. And it's exceedingly fun!"

We want to hear from you! Share your FrogWatch USA experiences, questions, and photos with our FrogWatch USA community:

E-mail the National Coordinator:
"Like" us on Facebook:
View the Flickr Photostream:
Join the Flickr Group:

frogwatch@aza.org
www.facebook.com/FrogWatchUSA
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American Toads.
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Spotted Chorus Frog.
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Common Names: When Writing “Chorus Frog” is Not Enough

FrogWatch USA volunteers become very familiar with their local frog and toad (anuran) species. So much so, that sometimes names become shortened. This becomes a challenge when examining data on a national level, because there are multiple species, sometimes with overlapping ranges, that share similar common names. Remember, species-level identification is required; FrogWatch USA volunteers need to write the full common name for any anuran species heard.

Our “chorus frogs” (*Pseudacris* spp.) are some of the first to emerge and be heard calling at the start of FrogWatch USA season. Here is a reference table to help determine which species are in your region. Regions are consistent with those defined by the Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) habitat classification definitions (www.parcplace.org).

Common Name	Latin Name	Range (PARC Region)
Ornate Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris ornata</i>	Southeast
Strecker's Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris streckeri</i>	Southwest; Disjunct populations in Midwest & Southeast
Spotted Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris clarkii</i>	Primarily Southwest
Boreal Chorus Frog*	<i>Pseudacris maculata</i>	Wide-ranging: Midwest, Northwest, & Southwest
Midland Chorus Frog*	<i>Pseudacris triseriata</i>	Midwest
Upland Chorus Frog*	<i>Pseudacris feriarum</i>	Primarily Northeast & Southeast; piedmont regions
New Jersey Chorus Frog*	<i>Pseudacris kalmi</i>	Northeast; NJ, DE, MD, VA
Cajun Chorus Frog*	<i>Pseudacris fouquetii</i>	Southeast & Southwest - AL, LA, AR, OK, TX
Mountain Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris brachyphona</i>	Southeast & Northeast (Atlantic)
Brimley's Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris brimleyi</i>	Southeast & Northeast (Atlantic)
Southern Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris nigrita</i>	Southeast
Northern Pacific Treefrog**	<i>Pseudacris regilla</i>	Northwest
Sierran Treefrog**	<i>Pseudacris sierra</i>	Southwest
Baja California Treefrog**	<i>Pseudacris hypochondriaca</i>	Southwest
California Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris cadaverina</i>	Southwest

* - Part of western chorus frog (*P. triseriata*) species complex
 ** - Part of Pacific chorus frog (*P. regilla*) species complex

The following web resources will also help with refining a species list:

- AZA anuran species by state: www.aza.org/states-and-territories/
- USGS frog call lookup and quiz: www.pwrc.usgs.gov/frogquiz/
- USGS National Amphibian Atlas: armi.usgs.gov/national_amphibian_atlas.php
- AmphibiaWeb and Berkely Map: amphibiaweb.org
- IUCN: www.iucnredlist.org/

Those with Apple products can also download these free apps: Frog Finder and AmphibiaWeb.

“Spring Forward” for Amphibian Conservation

We invite all of our chapters and volunteers, particularly those still battling with the last leg of winter weather to prepare for emerging frogs and toads, and to “spring forward” for amphibians. Zoos and aquariums across the country hold events, activities, and programming in support of amphibian conservation in March and April. You can locate an AZA-accredited zoo or aquarium near you by visiting: www.aza.org/findzooaquarium/.

Hop-Hop Hooray! Celebrating over 80 FrogWatch USA Chapters

FrogWatch USA hit a major milestone. We are proud to announce that there are now more than 80 Chapters nationwide.

The following chapter hosts joined our nationwide network in 2013:

- Hiram College (OH)
- Seneca Park Zoo (NY)
- Frostburg State University (MD)
- Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve (AL)
- Ottawa County Parks & Recreation (MI)
- Zoo Atlanta (GA)
- Potawatomi Zoo (IN)
- Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center (MI)
- Racine Zoo (WI)
- Mill Mountain Zoo (VA)
- Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park (NY)
- Barry Conservation District (MI)
- Potter Park Zoo (MI)
- West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (GA)
- Columbus Zoo and Aquarium (OH)
- Hattiesburg Zoo (MS)

32 states and the District of Columbia are served by FrogWatch USA chapters. A complete chapter list is available at www.aza.org/become-a-frogwatch-volunteer.

We continue to expand our network through regional in-person training workshops and online. To learn more and attend a workshop, visit www.aza.org/host-a-frogwatch-chapter.