

Brent Steury
04/18/03 06:59 AM EDT
To: Priya K Nanjappa/BRD/USGS/DOI@USGS@NPSX
cc: Robin E Jung/BRD/USGS/DOI@USGS, Sam Droege/BRD/USGS/DOI@USGS, Stephen Syphax/NACE/NPS@NPS
Subject: Re: Marbled salamander & chorus frogs @ Piscataway

Priya:

Nice work. A very interesting find is the possible marbled salamander from Piscataway. Marbled salamander would be a new record for Piscataway Park! Are you sure of the larval identification? It would be great if we could find some adults as well. I am currently in the middle of a four month detail to another park and will be back at NACE on June 8. I would love to get out in the field with you but unfortunately will miss this spring season at NACE.

Thanks,
Brent

Priya K Nanjappa@USGS

Priya K Nanjappa@USGS
04/17/03 04:06 PM EDT
Subject: chorus frogs @ Piscataway
To: Brent Steury/NACE/NPS@NPS
cc: Robin E Jung/BRD/USGS/DOI@USGS, Sam Droege/BRD/USGS/DOI@USGS

Hi Brent,

The field crew and I went down to Piscataway on Tues. night (15 April 2003). We heard chorus frogs at three of the four sites which Sam mentioned to you previously (the ones just off of Wharf Rd; we heard them in two spots in the meadow west of the road, and also in the flooded woods east of Wharf Road, directly across from the meadow as well as the woods at the NW end of Wharf Rd. right near the River). We estimated ~15-20 individuals in the first flooded woods area, and ~10-15 total in the wet meadow areas. From the woods on the NW end of Wharf Rd., we heard at least one chorus frog individual calling very briefly. Thus, in total, the population around Wharf road (meadow + woods) is comprised of at least 35 calling males. We also observed and photographed one female chorus frog. In addition, the crew realized that what they had heard on 27 March 2003 were indeed chorus frogs (as well as American toads [in both meadow and woods], and spring peepers [both woods and meadow], and wood frogs [near the ditch/pond where we just observed tadpoles]), not cricket frogs as they had previously thought. The crew thought that we were hearing about the same number of frogs or more on Tues. night than they did on 27 March.

Other species we observed on 15 April 2003 (see attached photos):
->wood frog tadpoles in an irrigation ditch/pond in the meadow, just 2 m west of Wharf Rd.
->spring peeper adults calling in a full chorus from both the meadow and woods (too many to count)
->American toads tadpoles and a full chorus of calling adults in the meadow as well as calling adults in both flooded woods areas
->Cope's gray treefrogs adults -- we only heard two or possibly three individuals calling.
->southern leopard frog adults -- I heard at least one or two individuals
->marbled salamander larvae (~30 - 35 mm TL) in the flooded woods on the right side of Wharf road (where we heard the majority of the chorus frogs)

We also made recordings of the chorusing using a tape recorder and microphone. It turned out very nice -- there are some good snippets of all species chorusing together.
Let me know if you need further information.