

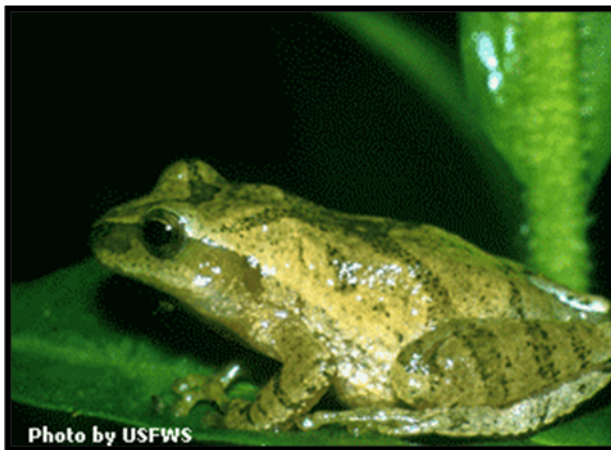


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## CREATURE FEATURE

Northern Spring Peeper



(*Pseudacris crucifer crucifer*)

Spring Peepers are serenading one another, and all of us in the Upper Raritan watershed, as they search for mates. Take a walk along any path or roadway near water during March, April and May, and you'll almost certainly hear their distinctive high pitched chirp "peep, peep, peep, peep." Where Spring Peeper populations are large, the chorus of calling frogs can be almost deafening!

Spring Peepers are found through New Jersey in wooded areas. These treefrogs breed in ponds and swamps in the spring. While their calls are most noticeable during their breeding season, males often call on warm rainy days during the summer and even the fall. They hibernate under logs and loose bark during the winter months. You are much more likely to hear Spring Peepers than to see them! They are very small – adults range in size from  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to  $1\frac{3}{8}$ ". Spring Peepers may be olive, gray, brown or yellow. They all have a dark "X" shape on their back.

Worldwide, amphibian populations are in decline. This phenomenon is poorly understood and may have significant implications for entire ecosystems. Amphibians have been identified as important indicators of ecosystem health due to their physiology and diversity of ecological requirements. The planetary decline in many species of amphibians has resulted in an increased level of research into their life

histories. Scientists and conservation organizations all over the world have initiated monitoring projects to document the status of amphibian populations and to gain insight into why some species are declining.

For more information about Spring Peepers and other frogs and toads, go to one of the following links:

[New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Fish & Wildlife Online Field Guide for Reptiles and Amphibians](#)

[Calling All Frogs: A Resource for Teachers from Erik Mollenhauer and the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey](#)

[Conservation International's Fun Frog Facts](#)

[Amphibian Specialist Group](#)

[Conservation International's Amphibian Quiz](#)

[North American Amphibian Monitoring Program](#)

[1000 Friends of Frogs](#)

[Frogwatch USA](#)