

**Amphibian Migrations and Road Crossings (AM&RC) Project Volunteer Training- February 22, 2022 webinar transcript**

1

00:00:02.274 --> 00:00:17.245

Okay, great sorry about that. Everyone let me restart. Hello everyone and welcome. I hope you're all doing well. Thank you for registering for AM&RC project Virtual training. My name is Emma

2

00:00:17.245 --> 00:00:31.614

Clements. I'm the project assistant and this is my colleague Laura Heady, who is the leader and creator of this project. Before we get started with our training content. I wanted to run through some housekeeping details to do with Webex.

3

00:00:35.244 --> 00:00:44.034

So, you can adjust the speaker settings at the top menu, under audio and video. But remember, phone is recommended, and we have that in the chat.

4

00:00:44.304 --> 00:00:50.725

The number you can call with the access code and if you're having technical difficulties, please ask us in the chat box.

5

00:00:51.895 --> 00:01:02.064

But we do recommend using the Q and a box for questions only so please put your questions in a Q and a box and use the chat for technical difficulties.

6

00:01:04.859 --> 00:01:11.790

Yeah, if you don't see the Q, a box, please click on the 3 white dots in the lower right corner to expand your options.

7

00:01:11.790 --> 00:01:17.969

And reminder, you will not be able to see other attendees' names. If you are sending a checkbox, it'll go to the and Laura.

8

00:01:19.920 --> 00:01:24.299

And I will be passing it off to Laura at this time.

9

00:01:29.275 --> 00:01:43.795

Okay, great. Thanks. Emma and good, I guess late afternoon. Everyone and, um, yeah thanks for joining us on. Uh, well, I have to tell you my favorite number is two, so I'm very excited that it's Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022.

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00:01:43.795 --> 00:01:54.084

um, we're glad to have you all here on this warm, rainy day. I'm Laura Heady, I'm the conservation and land use program coordinator with the Hudson River Estuary program and Cornell University.

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00:01:54.084 --> 00:02:06.954

I'm happy to be Co instructing today here with Emma and we're actually in the same room. So, we're facing some new challenges with hearing each other, both in person as well as through our headphones.

12

00:02:06.954 --> 00:02:21.354

So don't mind us if we get a little distracted by that anyway we're so glad to have so much interest and attendance at tonight's training, which is why we're keeping the, um, the attendance out of sight for everyone. Because it would just get too busy.

13

00:02:21.354 --> 00:02:22.854

If everybody had their video on.

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00:02:26.034 --> 00:02:40.194

So, if you read the information that Emma shared about the training, you know, that, today, we're giving a very abridged version of what we've offered in the past at our in-person trainings. And we were very lucky that prior to never knowing we were going to have a pandemic.

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00:02:40.224 --> 00:02:52.675

We actually had developed online training modules and those YouTube links were shared with you. And so, we hope that, in combination with the YouTube videos tonight, session will help you gain a better understanding of how to volunteer.

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00:02:56.455 --> 00:03:07.884

So this project, uh, supports the work of the Hudson River program, which focuses not only on the Hudson or the tidal portion of the river, but also on the surrounding watershed.

17

00:03:07.884 --> 00:03:22.344

And that watershed includes the lands, the forests, and the water bodies wetlands and so forth. That drain into the actuary and keep the whole ecosystem functioning. Um, and so that includes the forest and vernal pools that we're going to be talking about today.

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00:03:22.620 --> 00:03:34.919

And if you're not familiar, the program is a non-regulatory program within the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. And our work is outlined in a 5-year action agenda.

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00:03:35.814 --> 00:03:45.205

That lays out the strategies and targets that help us to achieve the key benefits listed on this slide. And you can read more about the program on the DEC website.

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00:03:45.235 --> 00:03:58.194

But before I move away from the map, I did want to welcome our New York neighbors that are attending tonight from outside of a watershed and hope the training tonight gives you some ideas about how maybe to start a similar program, uh, in your region.

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00:03:59.490 --> 00:04:09.865

So, at the history program, I lead our conservation and land use team, which works with municipalities, land trusts and other partners in the watershed to help protect important, natural areas.

22

00:04:10.344 --> 00:04:20.634

You can learn more about biodiversity and conservation planning and resources available to help, um, communities on our Cornell website. And that website is up on the slide.

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00:04:21.990 --> 00:04:29.394

So the project is one way, our team is working to raise awareness about vernal pool conservation.

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00:04:29.785 --> 00:04:38.305

The project focuses on a group of amphibian species that live in the forest and migrate to vernal pools for breeding in late winter, and early spring.

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00:04:38.514 --> 00:04:49.314

And then they return to the forest and many of these migrating salamanders and frogs often need to crossroads. They encounter on their way to vernal pools.

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00:04:49.555 --> 00:04:55.704

And the resulting mortality is 1 of the reasons why many of the species use pools are of conservation concern.

27

00:04:57.324 --> 00:05:12.113

So, in the training module on YouTube, if you did your homework, you heard me talk about the challenges that amphibian's face globally. And here in the Northeast, which include climate change disease pollution, but also habitat loss and habitat fragmentation and road mortality.

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00:05:12.353 --> 00:05:12.653

And so,

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00:05:12.653 --> 00:05:14.334

to address these habitat,

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00:05:14.363 --> 00:05:14.814

um,

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00:05:14.843 --> 00:05:16.314

and road mortality issues,

32

00:05:16.644 --> 00:05:27.204

the project aims to raise awareness about these habitats and the impact of our land new decisions on habitat connectivity to locate road crossings,

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00:05:27.233 --> 00:05:28.613

reduce road mortality,

34

00:05:28.644 --> 00:05:29.064

migrating,

35

00:05:29.064 --> 00:05:32.874

amphibians and identify opportunities to conserve these habitats.

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00:05:32.874 --> 00:05:33.834

And the species.

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00:05:34.254 --> 00:05:34.673

Also,

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00:05:34.673 --> 00:05:35.033

of course,

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00:05:35.033 --> 00:05:37.434

provide a rewarding volunteer experience,

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00:05:37.463 --> 00:05:46.853

by connecting people to this amazing aspect of nature that so a few of us knew about when we 1st got started in enjoying nature but also,

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00:05:46.853 --> 00:05:53.543

then through providing these experiences and raising awareness to build support for community conservation initiatives.

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00:05:53.788 --> 00:06:04.168

And finally, once we have consistently collected data, we hope that will create a foundation for asking more research related questions.

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00:06:04.764 --> 00:06:12.084

And so, before I move on, I wanted to share some of the progress we've made since the project started in 2009, in terms of raising awareness.

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00:06:12.084 --> 00:06:26.454

We're getting lots of interest in the, um, the migration alert emails and the subscription to DEC delivers continues to grow our materials online continued to track a lot of interest. We were thrilled that the webinar series.

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00:06:26.454 --> 00:06:35.634

We just completed, had over 400 people registering for each 1 and, um, and we get consistent coverage by the press, which is just another opportunity to raise awareness of the greater public.

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00:06:38.124 --> 00:06:44.994

In terms of our goal for reengaging volunteers, we've held lots of in person in virtual and recorded trainings.

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00:06:45.324 --> 00:06:59.244

There's been over 850 people that have participated as volunteers during migrations and we have a growing number of project partners who are helping to implement a locally with local volunteers. And I'll talk more about that later.

48

00:07:01.673 --> 00:07:10.343

In terms of documenting migrations and reducing road mortality, um, over almost 46,000 living and dead amphibians have been counted by volunteers.

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00:07:10.374 --> 00:07:25.254

More than 9,000 have been assisted across roads and monitored in all the 10 counties that border the actuary as well as down in New York City. And then beyond the boundaries of a watershed and other parts of New York, and finally in terms of asking more questions.

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00:07:25.254 --> 00:07:36.144

I'm working with a colleague at Cornell to finalize compiling and analyzing the data. And we'll use that to help us explore other opportunities for conservation. And for improving the way we collect data in this project.

51

00:07:39.473 --> 00:07:54.444

Okay, so now for the really fun stuff. So, what is a woodland pool? Well, it's a type of wetland that is only flooded seasonally. Um, so that means it doesn't hold water year round. This pair of photos is actually the same vernal pool the photo on. The right.

52

00:07:54.444 --> 00:08:08.153

Was actually during a very, very dry, early spring when the pool was incredibly small, and that's the kind of erratic weather. We're seeing more and more of during this time of year. And this week is a great example of that. We have everything from 60 degrees to single digits.

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00:08:08.153 --> 00:08:12.774

I think all happening within this week and a snowstorm and mild rain. So I.

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00:08:13.613 --> 00:08:25.074

I'm glad I'm not an amphibian. I feel bad for our amphibian friends, but they're small and shallow. Um, usually just about an acre or give or take and they might only be a meter 3 meters to 3 meters deep.

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00:08:25.524 --> 00:08:25.913

Um,

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00:08:25.944 --> 00:08:36.384

they sit in an isolated basin or little depression in the forest and because they're shallow and because they're isolated without a continual flow of water,

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00:08:36.413 --> 00:08:38.244

say through a stream they,

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00:08:38.274 --> 00:08:38.783

um,

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00:08:38.994 --> 00:08:42.264

typically dry in summer and I'm going to emphasize the word typically here,

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00:08:42.264 --> 00:08:46.433

because all of these conditions can vary if we have erratic weather patterns,

61  
00:08:46.433 --> 00:08:52.494  
but typically they dry off a dry out annually and all of these  
characteristics mean,  
62  
00:08:52.494 --> 00:08:59.333  
they're usually free of fish so they don't contain fish creditors and  
therefore they are incredible nursery,  
63  
00:08:59.333 --> 00:09:01.403  
habitat for breeding amphibians.  
64  
00:09:01.644 --> 00:09:02.364  
And so,  
65  
00:09:02.364 --> 00:09:02.903  
um,  
66  
00:09:02.994 --> 00:09:03.384  
uh,  
67  
00:09:03.384 --> 00:09:05.543  
with frogs and salamanders,  
68  
00:09:05.573 --> 00:09:05.903  
uh,  
69  
00:09:06.083 --> 00:09:07.224  
deposit their eggs,  
70  
00:09:07.403 --> 00:09:08.604  
those eggs masses,  
71  
00:09:08.604 --> 00:09:10.283  
then develop into wood frog,  
72  
00:09:10.313 --> 00:09:12.354  
tadpoles and salamander larvae,  
73  
00:09:12.533 --> 00:09:16.793  
which eventually have to fully develop and then walk out of the pool.  
74  
00:09:17.754 --> 00:09:22.734  
Or hop out of the pool and so this gives this photo montage,  
75  
00:09:22.764 --> 00:09:25.313  
gives you an example of how different pools look um,  
76  
00:09:25.344 --> 00:09:27.293  
some in deciduous forest,  
77  
00:09:27.443 --> 00:09:34.043  
some and mixed deciduous and evergreen forest different sizes different  
amounts of aquatic plants are falling,

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00:09:34.073 --> 00:09:34.283

uh,

79

00:09:34.313 --> 00:09:35.303

logs in the pool.

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00:09:35.573 --> 00:09:49.163

But really always with that fairly visible surrounding topography that, um, kind of demonstrates how there's like a little micro watershed. So, when I talked about the biggest jewelry watershed, all that surface area draining down into the actuary.

81

00:09:49.644 --> 00:10:03.923

So we'll then pull the vernal pools. They're like little small versions of that where the surrounding higher topography drains snow melt and rain water that moves down the slopes into the pools and that's how they kept capture and hold water.

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00:10:04.313 --> 00:10:16.764

Um, and it's that temporary abundance of water that, uh, collects in these pools. Each late winter, early spring that really provides a special value to far as ecosystems.

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00:10:18.144 --> 00:10:33.114

And if you've driven around on a warm, rainy night, you know, that you'll see frogs and toads hopping throughout the spring summer, uh, into the fall for the project. We're focused specifically on forest amphibians.

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00:10:33.114 --> 00:10:36.083

So these are amphibians that spend all year in the forest,

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00:10:36.144 --> 00:10:36.714

um,

86

00:10:36.744 --> 00:10:37.884

throughout the watershed,

87

00:10:37.913 --> 00:10:40.134

but they prefer within pools for breeding,

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00:10:40.134 --> 00:10:43.043

where they may just spend a few days to a few weeks,

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00:10:43.073 --> 00:10:44.903

and these include spotted salamander,

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00:10:44.903 --> 00:10:49.043

which is in the upper left corner the Jefferson blue spots element or complex,

91

00:10:49.043 --> 00:10:50.724

and the lower left corner,

92

00:10:50.964 --> 00:10:54.474

the marble salamander and the upper right corner and the wood frog.

93

00:10:54.504 --> 00:11:01.703

Um, these are the species we consider to be kind of specialists that rely on vernal pools primarily for breeding.

94

00:11:04.374 --> 00:11:17.634

We will make a note, there's an amphibian identification guide available on the website as well as in the volunteer handbook on pages 13 through 16. if you're following along. Um, there are other species that are observed during migration nights.

95

00:11:17.663 --> 00:11:23.153

Um, especially common species, even like spring peeper that are not strictly vernal pool breeders.

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00:11:26.724 --> 00:11:41.033

So when does this all happen, um, when do the forest amphibians, make their journeys from the forest pool, then pools for breeding usually, it's in March, but depending on where you live, it could be as early as February, late, April, and even into New England. It's like, may.

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00:11:41.399 --> 00:11:55.524

Um, and they these species leave their winter shelters in the forest. They migrate across land to the vernal pools for breeding and then return back to the forest, uh, 1 thing to note.

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00:11:55.583 --> 00:12:06.984

Uh, marble salamander on the previous slide. Uh, they breed, uh, in the fall, so we don't expect to see them during migrations this time of year. I think there's only been 1 or 2 ever seen since the project started in 2009.

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00:12:06.984 --> 00:12:21.744

so breeding migrations usually occur on the 1st, few rainy nights. Uh, in late winter or early spring, after the ground has thawed and evening temperatures are at least 40 degrees after sunset. There's a little give or take there.

100

00:12:21.744 --> 00:12:36.173

Um, tonight it's warm. It's rainy. However, the ground is not thawed everywhere. We really need those 3 conditions. Um, in most cases, there has been research showing Jefferson, blue spotted salamander might migrate before the ground is fully thawed.

101

00:12:36.173 --> 00:12:47.663

So there's always kinda these fringe season times when it's worth looking. Um, tonight, I think it's as of yesterday, I couldn't even poke a garden steak into the ground, uh, in the mid Hudson and ulster county here.

102

00:12:47.663 --> 00:12:51.203

So, um, it's a question whether or not There'll be any movements tonight.



103

00:12:53.964 --> 00:13:07.104

But you may have heard that when all of this migration happens when everything lines up just so, and there's an explosive number of, of amphibians moving, hundreds and thousands of amphibians moving, people use the term "big night" to describe this.

104

00:13:07.134 --> 00:13:18.443

Um, I find in most years we've been getting mixes of medium and small nights. We don't necessarily capture or observe the big night. Um, but it really depends on the weather and that changes from year to year.

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00:13:19.524 --> 00:13:21.443

So you might be thinking to yourself,

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00:13:21.474 --> 00:13:23.214

especially if you joined us for the other,

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00:13:23.214 --> 00:13:23.604

um,

108

00:13:23.634 --> 00:13:24.323

webinars,

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00:13:24.714 --> 00:13:28.943

this movement between habitats requires what we call habitat connectivity,

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00:13:29.333 --> 00:13:36.413

a connected landscape that enables safe movement by wildlife and thanks to conservation and stewardship efforts,

111

00:13:36.443 --> 00:13:36.744

uh,

112

00:13:36.774 --> 00:13:38.573

by state municipal agencies.

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00:13:38.573 --> 00:13:52.313

And land trusts and landowners, some migrations happen safely deep in the forest where the only threats to these migrating amphibians might be predators like raccoons, snakes, Turkey and other species but often.

114

00:13:53.214 --> 00:14:02.484

There's development that severs habitat connections, and these small animals need to cross roads and long driveways on their way to the breeding pools.

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00:14:02.514 --> 00:14:09.864

And then back to the forest and research has shown that even in low traffic, uh, roads, there can be significant mortality.

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00:14:10.374 --> 00:14:20.964

And the fact that these amphibians are moving all at once means that local populations, um, are very vulnerable, all the same time. And that makes it even greater threat.

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00:14:21.354 --> 00:14:28.913

As they're moving across land and so that's where the amphibian migrations and bird crossings project and our volunteers, um, can help.

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00:14:28.913 --> 00:14:37.764

And that's why this project was designed to again, raise awareness, decrease mortality um, you know, bring attention to the need for habitat conservation and vernal pools.

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00:14:37.764 --> 00:14:47.964

I'm gonna now pass the mic over to Emma or you could grab the slide sharing for me if you want.

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00:14:48.024 --> 00:14:53.033

Um, and Emma gonna talk a little bit now about, um, how you actually volunteer.

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00:14:53.399 --> 00:14:56.609

So, thank you for listening.

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00:14:57.683 --> 00:14:58.043

Mute my

123

00:15:23.303 --> 00:15:24.024

right.

124

00:15:24.053 --> 00:15:32.663

Hello hopefully everyone can hear me I'm going to be briefly discussing the key responsibilities of volunteer.

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00:15:33.053 --> 00:15:41.033

I'm going to start with the big picture of what our volunteers generally do and look and then look at how you can specifically accomplish these responsibilities.

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00:15:41.783 --> 00:15:54.474

There'll be a little white boxes with the letters vh and the page number on each page. Maybe on every slide, but that's referring to our volunteer handbook. And what page to find information on if you want to follow along.

127

00:15:54.953 --> 00:16:01.913

So, 1st, they find and document road crossing in the Hudson Valley. We're trying to build a robust database and we can't do this by ourselves.

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00:16:02.369 --> 00:16:07.649

Um, our volunteers, our ears and eyes up there when it comes to migration movement as well as locating new crossings.

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00:16:10.528 --> 00:16:18.359

They help reduce mortality rate crossing sites by carefully moving, amphibians across safely and Laura will touch more on this later in the presentation.

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00:16:19.313 --> 00:16:22.432

They record information about whether traffic species,

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00:16:22.432 --> 00:16:26.964

and count the number of live and did amphibians after you've collected this information,

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00:16:26.964 --> 00:16:31.374

you're going to submit these great observations to the Hudson River Estuary program or us,

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00:16:31.734 --> 00:16:35.693

and finally they do all of this by keeping themselves safe.

134

00:16:37.619 --> 00:16:48.953

So, let's go over this 1st, key responsibility. So checking your emails. 1 of the 1st, responsibility is if you watch our trading modules, you will probably know how to sign up for the project alerts.

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00:16:49.134 --> 00:16:52.764

But if not, I've circled where to sign up for these alerts on a web page here.

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00:16:53.369 --> 00:17:05.939

And this is what an email would look like coming into your inbox. These bulletins provide updates on migration activity as well as other updates like, whether updates and more.

137

00:17:08.364 --> 00:17:21.114

Checking conditions is another big 1 this project spans across 10 counties. So when Laura sends out the alerts, she will be giving you a broad sense of the weather. We probably all know just how unpredictable the weather can be around this time of year.

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00:17:21.324 --> 00:17:34.223

So, it's up to you to check out what's happening locally. I can use my weather app on my phone to give me a quick look as to what's happening. But if you want to go a little bit more in depth, I love using know, is whether website.

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00:17:34.499 --> 00:17:46.378

Uh, this is a screenshot of what the website looks like. And if you put your specific location into the upper left with a red boxes, you can get an extended forecast of your weather.

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00:17:46.378 --> 00:17:49.378

I like to play around with the hourly forecast feature.

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00:17:49.378 --> 00:17:57.179

This is what that looks like, where you can pick and choose whether elements like, wind, chill, temperature, rain and snow.

142

00:17:57.179 --> 00:18:09.838

And as Laura mentioned earlier, we're really looking to at when it's raining. And if the temperature is saying about 40 degrees after sunset, so highly recommend using this website, if you want some more precise with their predictions.

143

00:18:11.094 --> 00:18:21.263

Next amphibian identification now, all of that is great checking your emails and local weather conditions. But a huge part about being a volunteer is being able to identify amphibians.

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00:18:22.013 --> 00:18:26.634

So, you know, if you don't know your females from your males, don't worry.

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00:18:26.939 --> 00:18:39.598

Um, we're not asking you to know every single amphibian species in New York state. We just want you to familiarize yourself with the species You will most likely encounter on a migration night. You can find this list on page 7 of the volunteer handbook.

146

00:18:39.598 --> 00:18:51.328

Not to worry, though, we have some great resources and, you know, as Laura said, if you've done your homework, you're probably familiar with this 1. we have a training module on our YouTube channel that goes into identification.

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00:18:51.328 --> 00:18:57.659

And we also have an amphibian identification guide, which is great to print out and bring with you on a migration night

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00:18:59.219 --> 00:19:12.923

Do you want to dive deeper into vernal pools and leap further into amphibian identification so yeah, let's just say you for all the materials on our webpage and you've watched the training videos on YouTube and you're craving a little bit more. These are some of the publications.

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00:19:12.923 --> 00:19:17.634

We suggest looking into and you can also find these listed on the agenda that I've sent out.

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00:19:18.894 --> 00:19:24.173

1st a field guide to the animals of vernal pools, and I was going to cover here.

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00:19:25.463 --> 00:19:28.193

This guy was a cooperative effort between the Massachusetts,

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00:19:28.223 --> 00:19:30.594

natural heritage and endangered species program,

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00:19:30.743 --> 00:19:33.983

and the vernal pool association to produce a guide,

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00:19:34.403 --> 00:19:36.443

which would help students and others to a decently,

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00:19:36.473 --> 00:19:38.933

easily identify the vertebrate invertebrates,

156

00:19:39.173 --> 00:19:41.574

which are commonly found in vernal pools and Massachusetts.

157

00:19:41.604 --> 00:19:55.673

Although many of these animals listed in this guide are also found in the Hudson Valley. I carry this around with me everywhere. It's small and it's easy to locate things as you flipped through. Also, the vernal pool association has some awesome resources on their site.

158

00:19:56.124 --> 00:20:00.534

So, I recommend checking that out, including some cool T, shirts, which I want.

159

00:20:02.009 --> 00:20:13.229

And the next 1, it's called Vernal Pools: natural history and conservation. This is a book that is a synthesis of the natural history ecology and the conservation of pools.

160

00:20:13.644 --> 00:20:22.253

And lastly, the amphibians and reptiles in New York state, I have this 1 too. And as the title says, it's a complete list of not just amphibians but reptiles of New York state.

161

00:20:22.584 --> 00:20:30.023

It provides detailed narratives of the of the 69 species, native to New York state with a heavy emphasis on conservation biology.

162

00:20:33.509 --> 00:20:45.328

All right, the next 1 say, stay safe. This is arguably 1 of the most important responsibilities for our volunteers. So let's quickly run through how you do this.

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00:20:45.328 --> 00:20:49.769

Wear reflective safety, best and bright lights. You need to be seen.

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00:20:49.769 --> 00:20:58.828

Uh, pretty self-explanatory and as you can see here in this photo, this person is wearing a reflective vest and they've got a light on. So they're definitely seen.

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00:20:58.828 --> 00:21:12.179

Prepare for cold and rainy weather. We are rainboots. We're, we're protecting stuff. It's not gonna be warm so just dress for it.

166

00:21:12.443 --> 00:21:22.163

Bring a buddy, so it can be really hard to write down the observations that you're taking to move them Caribbean safely across the road and to watch traffic by yourself.

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00:21:22.824 --> 00:21:28.794

And Laura will be touching on this later too, but we really highly recommend bringing a family member.

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00:21:28.913 --> 00:21:38.064

A sibling, whoever bring with you, but please consider and discuss that with whoever you're bringing out or going out with beforehand.

169

00:21:38.338 --> 00:21:50.578

Stay alert sailor for traffic Taylor for cars, Taylor for amphibians on the road as well. And Laura will be touching on that, too in the coming slides.

170

00:21:50.578 --> 00:21:58.439

Do not interfere with traffic or flag down drivers that is not your goal, or you should not be doing that as an volunteer.

171

00:21:58.439 --> 00:22:08.098

And bring a project spec sheet for curious. So we will be sending this out in a follow up email but you can find this on our webpage.

172

00:22:09.989 --> 00:22:18.689

So, to be safe, you need to be prepared. I have here the list that has taken straight from our volunteer handbook.

173

00:22:18.689 --> 00:22:28.648

Um, and I believe, I can't see it right now, but it says the page number there and yeah, I love these photos of our volunteers. They're all wearing reflective vest.

174

00:22:28.648 --> 00:22:37.078

They have appropriate clothing on someone even has a identification guide there in their hands.

175

00:22:37.078 --> 00:22:51.713

So, yeah, bringing kids, let's go over this briefly there's just some considerations that you might want to think about before bringing kids out or younger, younger ones out, it can be a very educational and enriching experience.

176

00:22:52.523 --> 00:22:55.104

But are they good at following directions?

177

00:22:55.558 --> 00:23:00.298

Do they know how to be safe around traffic? Will they be gentle with amphibians?

178

00:23:00.298 --> 00:23:05.368

Is the road site family friendly? Will you have 1 adult for every child?

179  
00:23:05.368 --> 00:23:09.568  
If you answered no to any of these questions, wait until they're older.  
180  
00:23:10.648 --> 00:23:22.469  
Now, I am going to pass it on to Laura at this time, who will be covering  
the last key responsibility data collection and how to handle amphibian  
Safeway.  
181  
00:23:22.469 --> 00:23:26.788  
Stop.  
182  
00:23:34.703 --> 00:24:03.683  
Okay.  
183  
00:24:04.019 --> 00:24:09.749  
Okay, great. Thanks, Emma. So.  
184  
00:24:10.013 --> 00:24:15.263  
Right. So I was going to shift over to now that you've established, how  
to keep yourself safe, had to be prepared.  
185  
00:24:15.624 --> 00:24:16.104  
Um,  
186  
00:24:16.134 --> 00:24:17.483  
and now thinking about,  
187  
00:24:17.483 --> 00:24:20.723  
how do you actually document the migration um,  
188  
00:24:20.753 --> 00:24:22.044  
once you get to,  
189  
00:24:22.074 --> 00:24:22.703  
um,  
190  
00:24:22.733 --> 00:24:22.973  
you know,  
191  
00:24:22.973 --> 00:24:24.594  
heading out and so,  
192  
00:24:24.624 --> 00:24:24.923  
uh,  
193  
00:24:24.953 --> 00:24:27.743  
Emma already emphasized the importance of bringing a buddy,  
194  
00:24:27.983 --> 00:24:28.703  
um,  
195  
00:24:28.854 --> 00:24:29.094  
you know,

196

00:24:29.094 --> 00:24:30.624

having somebody along,

197

00:24:30.653 --> 00:24:31.074

uh,

198

00:24:31.104 --> 00:24:34.374

to be an extra pair of eyes for traffic and for,

199

00:24:34.703 --> 00:24:35.423

um,

200

00:24:35.663 --> 00:24:37.344

for amphibians on the road.

201

00:24:38.183 --> 00:24:46.074

I also wanted to just give a shout out to the growing number of program partners that are organizing volunteers locally.

202

00:24:46.074 --> 00:24:59.663

And this is just the collection of some of them when we follow up with an email after tonight's webinar I'm going to include the names of some of the partners that have been helping us out with their contact information.

203

00:24:59.663 --> 00:25:10.373

Because some of them have their own little phone trees or their own trainings to kind of help coalesce volunteers locally. So, for example, we'll kill the Atlanta.

204

00:25:10.403 --> 00:25:23.844

Trust has been helping out in the kind of new Paul's in town of Lloyd area. Colombian Conservancy has helped up in Colombia county. The watershed community in town of Red Hook are working in red, Red hook and Hyde Park area.

205

00:25:23.874 --> 00:25:35.604

Um, the Rhinebeck climate, smart task forces, organizing volunteers and so forth pound rage, conservation board, the town of Bedford Conservation Board town, like reservation.

206

00:25:35.604 --> 00:25:45.324

So, lots of different partners working in different places throughout the Hudson Valley, and also in agile park up in Rensselaer county.

207

00:25:45.324 --> 00:25:57.233

There's also, um, some local organization happening so we'll share all that contact information with you so that if you live in those areas, you can find some partners to work with, or some other volunteers to work with.

208

00:25:59.429 --> 00:26:12.358



Okay, there we go and also in preparation for a stepping, you know, before you step out the door, um, we've organized it. You have a partner or somebody to go with um, I highly recommend.

209

00:26:13.253 --> 00:26:26.094

Printing out, multiple copies of the data form and reading it before you go so that you are not reading it for the 1st time, uh, when you're on the street in the rain with a bunch of live animals around you and cars.

210

00:26:26.334 --> 00:26:41.003

So become familiar with what it's asking about, um, and so that you don't miss any, any information when you fill it out when you're outside. So, um, I'll just quickly review. There are sections on the conditions. The time the date what?

211

00:26:41.003 --> 00:26:51.054

The precipitation conditions are at the moment. What? They were in the last, 24 hours, what are the traffic conditions. Um, and then it asks you for location information, which you can fill out the best.

212

00:26:51.054 --> 00:27:02.423

You can, if you have any questions pulling up the map on your phone is really helpful way to figure out what the numerous crossroad is sometimes it will even take a screenshot of my map. That's open to showing me where I am.

213

00:27:02.423 --> 00:27:12.144

So, I can kind of use that as a record for my own notes, and then down at the bottom of the 1st page is where volunteer information is written out.

214

00:27:12.144 --> 00:27:14.304

And we have the key contact,

215

00:27:14.364 --> 00:27:15.743

which is so say,

216

00:27:15.743 --> 00:27:16.104

for example,

217

00:27:16.104 --> 00:27:16.703

Emma says,

218

00:27:16.703 --> 00:27:16.913

hey,

219

00:27:16.913 --> 00:27:17.064

Laura,

220

00:27:17.064 --> 00:27:18.324

let's go out and,

221

00:27:18.324 --> 00:27:18.804

uh,

222

00:27:18.804 --> 00:27:25.463

with some of our colleagues like Lindsay and Anna to go to go look for salamanders and frogs,

223

00:27:25.463 --> 00:27:27.173

she would be the key contact.

224

00:27:27.173 --> 00:27:42.023

But then she would list us all with our contact information so that we could then be part of the correspondence that is sent out from our program. Because if you have been involved, you might know that there are little special surprises that volunteers get.

225

00:27:42.023 --> 00:27:51.294

If they've joined in for the 1st time, and we can't mail those out if we don't get all of the names of the folks in your group and their contact info. So, uh, you know, err on the side of being thorough.

226

00:27:51.294 --> 00:28:00.534

And then definitely be very thorough on the back side where we track the salamanders' frogs' toads that were observed during the migration live and dead.

227

00:28:00.713 --> 00:28:12.144

Unfortunately, the general direction that they're moving, we know that amphibians might be moving in different directions on a road. So, if it's too variable, just say that, but if they think they're all moving in 1.

228

00:28:12.358 --> 00:28:17.098

Fraction look at your map and figure out what direction that is, is it north South and so forth?

229

00:28:17.098 --> 00:28:23.818

You can then also indicate how many animals you help to move across the road and, um, provide extra comments. If you need to.

230

00:28:24.653 --> 00:28:39.384

All of this will then be your record for transferring it to the online data entry, which we'll talk about in a moment. Um, also note you want to bring multiple copies of the data form. If you plan on visiting more than 1 road on a particular evening, or across the migration.

231

00:28:39.384 --> 00:28:52.943

So, for every time, you go out on a particular road that road stretch could be a mile. It could be a quarter of a mile, depending on the concentration of the movement. Um, but for each road, we want a separate data form. Otherwise it's very hard for us to enter it in the database.

232

00:28:52.973 --> 00:28:55.794

If you're using 1 form to capture multiple roads.

233

00:28:57.269 --> 00:29:12.028

All right, and then now, for thinking about both data collection and amphibian safety, once you've been, you know, carefully driving around,

you might have the windows down. So you can listen for the sound of wood frogs to kind of help you orient to where vernal pools are. Um.

234

00:29:12.028 --> 00:29:22.523

You want to if you start seeing some activity on the road park, the car carefully and try to park if you can somewhere that's not right in somebody's front yard.

235

00:29:22.794 --> 00:29:30.953

Um, find a little pull off that hopefully isn't getting too, into the margin of the road, where there might be grassy or vegetated area where amphibians might be.

236

00:29:31.223 --> 00:29:45.624

Um, and then once you've parked safely for yourself and for amphibians and for not, you know, annoying, any neighbors start walking carefully, you want to make sure we talk about having a headlamp so that you're visible on the road, but you also want a strong flashlight.

237

00:29:45.624 --> 00:30:00.473

Because headlamps are not adequate for eliminating the road enough so that you're not stepping, accidentally on salamanders and frogs particularly are smaller species like spring people. They can be very hard to see sometimes, especially in the dark in the rain.

238

00:30:01.044 --> 00:30:06.713

So you want something very bright to illuminate the road and you just start walking carefully and looking for amphibians.

239

00:30:08.124 --> 00:30:20.544

And once you've spotted a live amphibian, um, you want to mark your data form.

240

00:30:20.544 --> 00:30:35.003

In the rain paper and you print it out then that works great. When you're out in the rain, if not, we recommend our amphibian identification guide. If you laminate that you can keep that on top of your data form on the clipboard and use that to kind of protect the paper.

241

00:30:35.394 --> 00:30:44.273

Um, I also sometimes will carry scrap paper and then, as I go in and out of my car, I will mark down what I'm seeing. Because again, you might be walking along the road.

242

00:30:44.273 --> 00:30:53.784

If it's a long road, you might be driving slowly with your head beams on kind of eliminating the volunteers, walking in front of your car. So, it just depends on the situation. That you have.

243

00:30:53.784 --> 00:31:08.364

But you want to mark your data form with what you see, if you see a salamander, you have no idea what it is if you want to take photos and send them to us uh, when you enter your data, there's a place to attach

photos when you enter your data online if you're uncertain certainly take photos.

244

00:31:09.114 --> 00:31:19.223

Um, you want to use very clean hands when you're moving the amphibians. I know we covered this in the online training, but I can't emphasize enough the sensitivity of their skin.

245

00:31:19.913 --> 00:31:33.894

So before you leave to go out, you want to wash your hands with clean soap and water, rinse them off. Well, and then don't put on lotion. You shouldn't need insect repellent. This time of year don't use hand sanitizer. Just keep your clean hands wet.

246

00:31:33.923 --> 00:31:48.294

So get them wet in the rain and then use a gentle grip to move the salamanders across the road don't pick them up by their tails. And if you're uncomfortable doing that, um, the volunteer and the left is demonstrating using a very clean bucket, it would be great. If that bucket was a little bit wetter.

247

00:31:48.294 --> 00:32:02.693

So we want to get some clean water in the bucket also keep the amphibians just voice. We don't want them swimming and water, but just keep that in mind keep them moist, handle them as little as possible. So, just move them in the direction they were going and move them on their way. Put them down.

248

00:32:02.693 --> 00:32:04.733

Let them continue where they were going. Don't.

249

00:32:05.009 --> 00:32:09.028

2nd guess the direction they're going; they know what they're doing. They're probably.

250

00:32:09.028 --> 00:32:23.489

I was gonna say they're smarter than us. They're smarter than some of us for sure. Um, when you spot, um, a dead amphibian, it's very, uh, it's very disturbing. So, uh, this is not for the, um, the, the fan of heart that, um.

251

00:32:23.489 --> 00:32:34.344

To see what the roadkill can look like, and how much there might be if you're, um, able to handle that, you want to mark your data form with what you've seen and then removing them from the road.

252

00:32:34.374 --> 00:32:46.223

Prevents you from double accounting, if you're going back and forth on the same stretch, if it's a very busy stretch with a lot of activity, and you can use a spatula or some, you know, or if you're wearing gloves, you can move them with gloves. Are.

253

00:32:46.223 --> 00:32:52.703

Okay, to wear, um, if they're not powder, they're not powder lightly latex nitrile gloves.

254

00:32:52.973 --> 00:33:04.403

Um, if that makes you more comfortable, and the other thing you wanna do is wash your hands when you get home and while you're handling, amphibians don't be like, rubbing your contact lenses or eating jelly beans or something with your hands.

255

00:33:04.433 --> 00:33:08.933

So just try to minimize any other kind of cross contamination.

256

00:33:12.023 --> 00:33:20.003

Okay, and when you're done with all of that, if you get home at 10 am we understand if you don't want to get right on to the survey 123 and enter your data online?

257

00:33:20.003 --> 00:33:33.294

But if you get home around 10 o'clock, and you've got an extra 10 minutes, and you, it's great if you can log in and enter your data and survey 123, right away. Because then we have the next day. We can start to evaluate how much activity there was. So we can report out through DEC delivers.

258

00:33:33.294 --> 00:33:47.064

Um, even if you don't see activity, but you went out and looked we want to know that. So just fill out the data form as you would normally just report that you didn't see anything. So it'll all be zeroes for the, um, the amphibians. But that helps us know.

259

00:33:47.064 --> 00:34:00.594

Are we looking soon enough to understand when activities starting? Are we looking at areas where we expect there to be movement? But there isn't so that's all really helpful from a kind of a more of a scientific perspective we can't thank you enough for doing this.

260

00:34:00.594 --> 00:34:07.523

It saves us so much time by you entering your data yourself this project. This is we're going to the 14th year and for I think it was 9 years.

261

00:34:09.179 --> 00:34:17.364

Um, myself or interns, we're all entering all of your data ourselves. Now that the project has grown. We had over 400 volunteers just last year with a lot of data.

262

00:34:17.364 --> 00:34:29.244

Um, it's amazing that you're all entering it yourself, but I just want to also extend the request to be super careful and check your, uh, entry. Um, now to help you understand how to do all of that.

263

00:34:29.244 --> 00:34:34.614

Emma is going to do a demo of 123 and so I'm going to, um, stop sharing Emma.

264

00:34:39.478 --> 00:34:54.293

Take it away from me, and you can share your screen and while she's doing that, I'll just say that we know there's lots of questions in the Q and a, and we're going to try to get to them, um, during our question answer later and anything. We don't do, will try to follow up by email.

265

00:34:54.568 --> 00:34:59.458

Okay all right. Awesome.

266

00:34:59.458 --> 00:35:05.813

Um, sir Hello again, I will be providing some tips and tricks when filling out the online data form.

267

00:35:06.833 --> 00:35:16.014

So, 1st, this is what will pop up when you click the link on the could be online data form link, which will be on our webpage.

268

00:35:16.043 --> 00:35:29.244

We hope within the next few days, uh, 1st, things 1st make sure that you're opening the link up in a browser, such as Chrome Firefox or Microsoft edge. Please do not use Internet Explorer. It probably won't work.

269

00:35:29.244 --> 00:35:37.974

And if it does, there'll be a lot of glitches. Another tip worth mentioning is that we recommend using a computer rather than a phone or tablet.

270

00:35:38.813 --> 00:35:53.603

Or any other device, just when you're submitting your data, just reduce any errors or glitches and it's much easier to see and let's get into it and please make sure you're reading all of the texts on every page. I'm not going to get into that right now.

271

00:35:53.603 --> 00:35:57.684

But it's very important that you read everything that has every single page.

272

00:35:59.454 --> 00:36:09.744

So you'll see that I've already filled out some of the fields, um, just to save some time. So this is pretty straightforward this page, but I will show you what it looks like.

273

00:36:09.744 --> 00:36:17.543

So, we're going to ask you when you set when you when do you start surveying the road and when did you stop? So, this is what it looks like and it should actually pop up.

274

00:36:18.293 --> 00:36:23.153

On the day that it is right now, and as well as the time, it should be the current time and day.

275

00:36:23.903 --> 00:36:27.744

And I would like to point out to make sure that this,

276

00:36:27.773 --> 00:36:33.833

on this widget that is that it is at PM instead of am when you're putting in your time of course,

277

00:36:34.134 --> 00:36:35.483

if you are 1 of those people that,

278

00:36:35.483 --> 00:36:37.974

like to go out in the early or late early morning,

279

00:36:38.063 --> 00:36:38.873

123 a M,

280

00:36:38.873 --> 00:36:45.923

right then that's gonna be different but please make sure that it's in the PM and not am and double check triple check.

281

00:36:45.923 --> 00:36:59.873

If you want to, we're going to ask you for temperatures start and end very easy to do. Just put in a number, I'll actually show you right now what it looks like, if you didn't put in something, and you forgot, it'll actually turn red and it won't let you click to the next section.

282

00:36:59.873 --> 00:37:03.023

It'll say this is a required question if it has the red asterisks.

283

00:37:04.409 --> 00:37:10.528

But let's move on, we're gonna ask you about where the conditions in traffic.

284

00:37:10.914 --> 00:37:21.833

Once again, pretty straightforward. I don't think I really have to get into it, but, you know, if you do have questions about this, when you're going through it on the online data form, you can always email me.

285

00:37:21.833 --> 00:37:32.603

I'm more than happy to help, but I think this is a pretty straightforward section and, you know, make sure you're reading the hints underneath the questions.

286

00:37:32.909 --> 00:37:40.228

Just to show you and we'll move on to the next page.

287

00:37:40.228 --> 00:37:52.469

Which is crossing location information so we'll, I'll point out this just in case. This happens to you, but when you choose the county.

288

00:37:53.034 --> 00:38:06.713

It may kind of freeze for a little bit and just take a little while. What it's doing is actually it's loading up over there. We go it's loading up the town village and city that are only in that county.

289

00:38:07.253 --> 00:38:12.563

So it's loading up a bunch of information. So, it's going to take a little while. So, let me go back to that. I'm going to choose.

290

00:38:14.699 --> 00:38:25.409

Takes a little bit of time there we go and I'm going to go down to new.

291

00:38:25.409 --> 00:38:32.190

So much, and I've put in my road name and I surveyed this road lost here. So I'm going to click. Yes.

292

00:38:32.994 --> 00:38:47.065

The approximate links of the road stretch that I surveyed was 0.5 miles and make sure it's and miles. You can do this pretty easily. Nowadays you could go on Google or whatever to make the conversion, or do it yourself, the nearest crossroads put that right? In.

293

00:38:47.065 --> 00:38:50.034

And now we're going to get to the Matt portion, and this can sometimes.

294

00:38:51.539 --> 00:39:03.264

Um, the difficult, so I will explain these icons. 1st, so we're asking you to put in the point of where the crossing where you were at this crossing.

295

00:39:03.775 --> 00:39:17.244

It's a pretty cool feature but, yeah, it can be a little confusing. So, I'm the 1st thing. I'm going to do is I'm going to click this icon on the left, which actually, if you click, if you hover your mouse over any of these, you're going to it's going to tell you what it is.

296

00:39:17.605 --> 00:39:31.434

So this is a large Map. I want it to be larger and there it is in larger form and you'll see here, this is a zoom invite in zoom out. This is default view on the little home button. There.

297

00:39:31.465 --> 00:39:46.224

I recommend not hitting that because it'll bring you all the way out. And if you're zoomed all the way, and you know what that happened, this will say, find my location. So if you have your location enabled on your computer, you can actually click that and it'll go directly to where you are.

298

00:39:46.614 --> 00:40:00.474

We don't have that on our computers. And then over here, it's kinda cool. You can choose what you want your map to look like. This is a preferencing. We're not going to see it. You can choose whatever map your heart desires all 2 streets.

299

00:40:00.780 --> 00:40:05.309

That's just my preference and then.

300

00:40:05.309 --> 00:40:17.639



If you click in the upper left hand corner, this is where you're going to put in the address. Now you're probably going to have a specific address, but I'm just going to put in general new posts.

301

00:40:17.639 --> 00:40:22.349

New York, and you'll see, it automatically comes up with places.

302

00:40:22.349 --> 00:40:33.659

So, I'll choose that it zooms right in. Um, and in order to move the map around to get it to where you want to go, you actually just hold on to the lift.

303

00:40:33.659 --> 00:40:47.755

Uh, quicker the lift my mouse button and you can play around with it. I mean, you can, you know, if you're afraid of losing anything, you won't totally fine this button over here. It says delete; it'll delete your pin.

304

00:40:47.965 --> 00:40:51.864

Um, but that's, you know, play around with it, get a feel for it.

305

00:40:52.139 --> 00:40:57.750

Make sure you're zooming in as close as possible. We want it to be accurate. So if you're zoomed out.

306

00:40:57.750 --> 00:41:02.969

You know, here and you're like, oh, yeah, there is there was the crossing. That's if we zoom in.

307

00:41:02.969 --> 00:41:06.239

You know, that's not that's not.

308

00:41:06.239 --> 00:41:20.905

You know, accurate. So, let's assume all the way in let's say this is where my crossing was. All you have to do is click on either the right or the left milestone and it'll drop the pin and there.

309

00:41:20.905 --> 00:41:25.284

Yeah, I've captured my location. You can see the lat/long is down there to.

310

00:41:25.619 --> 00:41:31.380

And I will exit out of that and that's all I have to do for. I'm putting my point on the map.

311

00:41:31.380 --> 00:41:34.860

Uh, you can add some additional comments on the crossing locations.

312

00:41:36.114 --> 00:41:50.545

But now we're going to move forward to volunteer information and so you won't see all the information that's underneath right now. But because I filled it out ahead of time it's giving me that information. So, all you're going to see is this your 1st time submitting data for the 2022 migration? Please quick?

313

00:41:50.545 --> 00:42:00.085

Yes, if it is don't just click. No, because we will ask you list information when we click. No, but when we, when you click yes.

314

00:42:00.085 --> 00:42:11.485

Basically, we're just going to ask you the name of of, of yourself who's filling out this data form or the key contact we're guessing and the names of all the volunteers in groups in your group.

315

00:42:11.485 --> 00:42:26.094

And once again, we really want you to put the 1st and last names of the people in your group. And if they're not comfortable with it or if you're uncomfortable doing that, please email me. We do this because we want to improve accuracy in our database.

316

00:42:26.094 --> 00:42:37.164

And we want to follow up with questions and materials and, like Laura said, we occasionally send gifts to our volunteers. So, if you're interested, definitely put your 1st, last name and email address.

317

00:42:37.164 --> 00:42:50.094

And if you want to put your mailing address too, that's very helpful. But we can always reach out to and then we're just going to ask you some very general questions, total numbers of volunteers and your group phone number.

318

00:42:52.164 --> 00:43:03.204

Email address, mailing address pretty straightforward. This question is gonna ask if you have attended an in person virtual, or you've watched the training modules.

319

00:43:03.835 --> 00:43:18.775

So it'll if you click note, that won't show up as quickly as it will. And then down here. Are you volunteering with 1 of our partners and I will move on to the next section, which is amphibian information, which is really important. Right?

320

00:43:19.585 --> 00:43:27.925

So, if you didn't like Laura said, that's still valuable data to us. You could click. No. And then it'll bump you to the end of the survey if you did.

321

00:43:28.230 --> 00:43:32.099

It'll come up with this little statement here.

322

00:43:32.875 --> 00:43:47.545

So, you know, on on the following pages, it's going to list out all the species that our volunteers have have seen during immigration, but you might leave a lot of them as 0. and that's completely fine.

323

00:43:47.605 --> 00:43:55.284

No worries. We also have a with link to our species identification guide if you need help. And once again.

324

00:43:55.590 --> 00:44:10.014

Double check, triple check every, all the numbers that you're putting in last year, whether that was a glitch in the system, or people were just having difficulties on their device. We had a lot of negative numbers and yeah, we don't want that this year.

325

00:44:10.014 --> 00:44:16.164

So, double check all your numbers and let's move on to see what it looks like.

326

00:44:17.005 --> 00:44:28.764

So this year we have moved salamanders onto 1 page and then frogs and toads onto it onto another page just to kind of reduce confusion, make it a little bit more simplified.

327

00:44:28.855 --> 00:44:33.355

A little behind the scenes on, on our end, it's listed like this.

328

00:44:33.355 --> 00:44:48.204

It makes it a lot easier and the formatted way on our end and as well as just having everything listed for you to see you'll see here that I have. Oh, I didn't let me put that in.

329

00:44:48.510 --> 00:45:02.639

I saw 3 lives and let's say 1 did and that's also really important to make sure that you're putting the amount of live and amount of dead into the correct boxes to.

330

00:45:02.639 --> 00:45:12.869

So, I'm going to go all the way down Thank you for dealing with a long scroll, but it really helps us next frogs and toads. I didn't see any for oftentimes.

331

00:45:12.869 --> 00:45:19.559

So, I'm going to click to the next section, which is amphibian information. This is also pretty straightforward.

332

00:45:19.559 --> 00:45:28.619

So, the general compass direction that they were moving in with East, and I actually use my iPhone for that. There's a compass app.

333

00:45:28.619 --> 00:45:31.710

Um, or widget on your iPhone really easy to use.

334

00:45:32.545 --> 00:45:45.235

And we also want to know how many amphibians did you help to cross the road? How many live amphibians so I put 3. and if you have any additional comments, you can put them there and last, but not least.

335

00:45:45.894 --> 00:45:48.954

We're going to ask you if you want to upload photos.

336

00:45:49.704 --> 00:46:03.445

So, please read everything on this page before submitting. You can attach up to 5 photos with your data form. So, if you need help with identification or if you had a question about the amphibians useful, you can upload them here. You can also email them to me.

337

00:46:03.445 --> 00:46:15.894

If you have more than 5 and yeah, you can also upload photos of volunteers and actions wearing the appropriate attire of course, and at 80 great photos that you take, that are blurry and feel that are important to stand desk.

338

00:46:16.855 --> 00:46:31.525

We are asking that you put each file, you label the file in this format here and it's pretty easy to do if you upload it on the computer. So I want to upload 1 photos.

339

00:46:31.764 --> 00:46:41.784

So I just clicked 1 came down here. I already uploaded photo, but I'll go back in to show you how that's done. So I can delete that. It's going to ask you select an image file.

340

00:46:43.079 --> 00:46:51.179

And right here, and this wasn't during the migration. This was during another time in the year, I'm going to click continue.

341

00:46:54.295 --> 00:47:09.025

There we go and if you hover over this button here, it says rename and you can rename it right in here. So, I already had it in that format, but really easy to do. And there we are there is my photos.

342

00:47:09.715 --> 00:47:11.934

And if you have any comments that you want to add to it.

343

00:47:12.179 --> 00:47:16.349

Uh, questions you would write it in the space that is attached to that photo.

344

00:47:16.349 --> 00:47:28.764

And that is it you are done, make sure you hit submit. Please make sure you hit submit. And that is it on the online data form, but please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

345

00:47:28.764 --> 00:47:31.614

If you have any issues throughout the migration season.

346

00:47:31.920 --> 00:47:36.690

I'm going to hand it back to Laura.

347

00:47:36.690 --> 00:47:43.980

Thanks, Emma. Um, well.

348

00:47:43.980 --> 00:47:53.309

We get ready to share I guess I'm ready to share. I was going to say that behind the scenes. Emma was talking about, has to do with all of the, um.

349

00:47:53.309 --> 00:48:07.585

The way that survey 1 to 3 exports the data, the way it's structured really helps minimize the amount of effort it takes an art. And by our end, I should say Emma, because she's really been taking over all of the, um, the Excel spreadsheet management.

350

00:48:07.585 --> 00:48:15.025

And it really helps to, um, have it set up the way it is so that the output is compatible with the way. We've been keeping the data for years.

351

00:48:15.659 --> 00:48:19.920

All right with that, let's, um, uh, I wanted to.

352

00:48:19.920 --> 00:48:31.375

To switch to. Oh, good. We're good. We're good on time. Um, some commonly asked questions really emphasizing. Cause some of the questions that have already been coming up in the chat box, or the question and answer box.

353

00:48:31.375 --> 00:48:40.255

So, I've been, uh, we've both been responding to some of those already, but I wanted to, um, try to help you out with some of the confusing identifications that we hear about.

354

00:48:41.005 --> 00:48:41.965

Specifically,

355

00:48:42.385 --> 00:48:45.054

the Jefferson blue spotted salamander complex,

356

00:48:45.054 --> 00:48:45.414

which you,

357

00:48:45.534 --> 00:49:00.355

you got yesterday's E blast you understand why it's complex that whole reproductive relationship between Jefferson Solomon or blue spotted salamander but we're going to look at their identification and versus the lead backed phase of the northern

358

00:49:00.355 --> 00:49:01.375

red back salamander,

359

00:49:01.405 --> 00:49:01.885

that's all.

360

00:49:02.875 --> 00:49:07.255

And then we're simply look at the northern red back. Salamander compared to the.

361

00:49:09.295 --> 00:49:21.744

So, 1st, here are some images of beautiful Jefferson, blue spotted or complex. I have Jefferson salamander written out here. But, um, the hybridization between Jefferson and blue spotted.

362

00:49:21.744 --> 00:49:34.224

Salamander is such that without genetic testing. It's very difficult to know which of the 2 species. You might have if it does look kind of like a pure jeff's or pure blue spotted.

363

00:49:34.614 --> 00:49:43.945

Um, so, um, I don't even attempt to, um, and most, I think, trained herpetology, which I'm not don't even try to in the fields. No. 1 from the other.

364

00:49:43.945 --> 00:49:57.985

So, it really relies on genetic testing, but in any case, and these photos really demonstrate the variability, because Jefferson salamander is more traditionally kind of brown or gray solid, whereas blue spot it has a little more blue flecking.

365

00:49:57.985 --> 00:49:59.005

It's a little bit more petite.

366

00:49:59.905 --> 00:50:09.804

But collectively, this complex as we referred to it, um, it's 1 of the mole salamanders, like spot and salamander and spot salamander you know, you can't miss it. It's large.

367

00:50:10.105 --> 00:50:21.204

I'll just tell you, I'm a size 9 and a half women shoe, and when I'm wearing, like, my boots, when I go out in the rain, my foot looks quite large and I've had spotted salamanders next to my foot and they're as long as my foot.

368

00:50:21.204 --> 00:50:35.844

So, there, we're talking, like, large salamanders here and Jefferson and blue spotted salamanders are part of that mole salamander group, which refers to the fact that they go underground like moles not to be confused with the species of moles. Salamander. Um.

369

00:50:36.684 --> 00:50:46.675

Uh, which is specific species, but anyway, this group, they're very robust, large salamanders, and you can see in relation to the hands and fingers in these photographs. These are large salamanders.

370

00:50:46.945 --> 00:50:56.605

Um, and in if I can grab your prop here in the identification guide, It's not just a field guide.

371

00:50:56.664 --> 00:51:10.704

They have a lot more information in there than identification, but they talk about the exceedingly long toes on the Jefferson. Salamander and I feel like that middle photo, you really can see those long toes in the front toes. They're really long.

372

00:51:11.065 --> 00:51:16.585

And so that is a good trait to look at in relation to the.

373

00:51:16.945 --> 00:51:30.744

Lead phase of the red back. Salamander. So, Northern red back salamander you're probably familiar with is the most common. They're everywhere. You know, some people you lift up a rock there's 1 or the rock and roll along. There's 1 or the log. Um, they're often.

374

00:51:30.894 --> 00:51:41.394

Um, uh, you know, even in, um, people's gardens, I think if they lived near the woods, they'll find them underneath, um, organic debris, but there is a lead.

375

00:51:41.699 --> 00:51:55.224

Backed morphed or a lead phase of the red back, and it's missing the red back. Um, and so it ends up looking like this photo on the right is an example of 1. it's also just dark gray and has a little bit of blue

376

00:51:55.224 --> 00:52:02.635

Flecking much like Jefferson blue spotted salamander, but when you look at these 2 next to each other, it's obvious the size is quite different.

377

00:52:02.635 --> 00:52:16.554

t's really very petite body compared to the Jeff blue spotted salamander.

378

00:52:16.554 --> 00:52:29.034

And they're only, uh, you know, 2 and a half to maybe 4 inches long, so big size difference. And that really can be the tip off while the coloration is similar. The body structures are very, very different.

379

00:52:30.625 --> 00:52:43.465

Now, here we have the more traditional red back salamanders so here they are side by side, the traditional red back. Salamander and then the lead phase of the red box element. So very similar thin body types.

380

00:52:43.494 --> 00:52:51.295

Um, but again, the red backs element, or has that very distinct brick, red orange Stripe going down the dorsal part of the body.

381

00:52:51.570 --> 00:52:56.159

I bring up the northern red back salamander, because it is.

382

00:52:56.159 --> 00:53:05.460

Easily confused with the foretold salamander and here are photos of the for toad salamander on the right now. Um, and.

383

00:53:05.460 --> 00:53:16.409

They, the body links are fairly similar if you see 2 and a half to 4 inches long on the red back salamander, 2 to 3 and a half inches long on the foretold.

384

00:53:16.409 --> 00:53:24.295

I want to point out again. Red box element are very common. They breed in, um, the like, an underwriting logs.

385

00:53:24.295 --> 00:53:37.735

They breathe in, um, you know, kind of organic debris and will breed and vernal pools and they're a species of greatest conservation need in New York state.

386

00:53:37.735 --> 00:53:41.934

So it's very exciting that volunteers are seeing for towed salamanders um,

387

00:53:41.934 --> 00:53:42.414

ice,

388

00:53:42.445 --> 00:53:48.625

I'm wondering if migrations are actually a good chance to be able to detect or where they are however,

389

00:53:48.653 --> 00:53:53.905

they are hard to detect when they're on the road because they are very thin and they can be very tiny,

390

00:53:53.905 --> 00:54:01.344

and I'm impressed with our volunteers that they're finding them 1 of the key distinguishing characteristics between these 2 species is the belly,

391

00:54:01.375 --> 00:54:03.385

which you can see in the lower right-hand corner.

392

00:54:03.385 --> 00:54:16.255

The belly of the is bright white with small black spots as opposed to the belly, which you can kind of start to see the side. Uh, on the side of the red back. Salamander is more like salt and pepper very fine speckling

393

00:54:16.675 --> 00:54:21.324

Um, also the on the right has refers skin.

394

00:54:22.135 --> 00:54:33.775

It also has a little constriction at the base of the tail, which people will compare to. It almost looks like a rubber band was kind of around that spot and it was on a little too tight and that's actually the break off point for the four-toed.

395

00:54:33.775 --> 00:54:46.375

So, if they are trying to flee from a predator, that tail can be dropped off and the tail will continue to wiggle to distract the predator as the, um, the rest of the Fortune salamander walks away.

396

00:54:46.795 --> 00:54:59.664

Obviously, the other key piece of why it's called affords with salamander is that it only has 4 toes on its hind feet. And the only other salamander that has that are mud puppies, which are a large aquatic Solomon or however, they are so tiny.

397

00:54:59.965 --> 00:55:09.414



And if you're out in the middle of the dark and the rain, you might not be able to pick up and look at each of the toes. So trying to pay attention to that the belly. If possible is a good way.

398

00:55:09.744 --> 00:55:12.324

The other thing I wanted to point out is the color variability,

399

00:55:12.355 --> 00:55:12.925

um,

400

00:55:13.045 --> 00:55:13.795

granted,

401

00:55:13.824 --> 00:55:14.364

um,

402

00:55:14.394 --> 00:55:16.224

your computer monitor and the,

403

00:55:16.554 --> 00:55:20.485

the photograph or the camera I used to take the photographs might also be contributing,

404

00:55:20.485 --> 00:55:22.164

but they can be bright orange,

405

00:55:22.195 --> 00:55:23.155

like the 1 on the top,

406

00:55:23.155 --> 00:55:24.864

which looks very much like the red back,

407

00:55:24.864 --> 00:55:25.465

but again,

408

00:55:25.585 --> 00:55:27.054

it's not a distinct Stripe.

409

00:55:27.054 --> 00:55:38.065

It's more. Um, almost the whole dorsal area is reddish, but you can even see in that top photo. The difference in that. Whiteness, the bright whiteness of the underbelly showing that with the black flecks.

410

00:55:38.335 --> 00:55:45.175

And the 1 example on the right I'm sorry on the bottom, um, is a little bit more of that orange color.

411

00:55:46.675 --> 00:55:59.184

Okay, so those are the salamanders I wanted to try to, um, reduce confusion on again. We're really interested to inspired salamander hard to miss dark body, yellow polka dots, the Jefferson blue spot.

412

00:55:59.184 --> 00:56:12.625

It almost looks like a, um, spotted salamander without its spot, and with some blue flicking and then we get into a smaller more petite salamanders that are all, um, part of that group that could be confused. But if you really learn about body size, that helps.

413

00:56:14.275 --> 00:56:22.554

I'm not going to get into all the different frogs and toads, but I really wanted to emphasize the importance of being able to recognize what frogs because they're 1 of our obligated rental pool or woodland pool breeders.

414

00:56:22.855 --> 00:56:33.985

And, um, they're seeing, um, most typically, uh, during these migration, early migration nights and there's a few key characteristics. However, if you look at all these photos, you can see there's also a lot of variability.

415

00:56:34.405 --> 00:56:47.605

They're often characterized as having this raccoon mask these dark patches around their eyes. The photo at the lower bottom. You really can see that darkness. So that's kind of what do you use as your image of thinking. That's what it looks like.

416

00:56:47.635 --> 00:56:54.534

You can kinda make out when it's more subtle and some of these other photos where the dark contrast is not quite as much, but you can still make it out.

417

00:56:54.809 --> 00:57:09.090

The other, um, important characteristic of wood frogs is that they have these, um, dorsal lateral folds or these distinct ridges down the back. And you really can see that in each of these images that there's a fold going down either side of its back.

418

00:57:10.074 --> 00:57:20.394

There's also a very distinct white, upper lip and you can see that also in these images, and even in the image where you're looking down at the frog on the upper right where I'm right above it.

419

00:57:20.425 --> 00:57:30.684

You can see the white, the whiteness of the edge of the upper left there showing and so, um, again, lots of variability and some of them you can really see the stripes, um, on the hind legs.

420

00:57:30.715 --> 00:57:40.675

How when they fold the stripes become continuous, but sometimes the stripes are barely visible. So it's really good to look for that mask. Those dorsal lateral folds. Um, and the White upper lip.

421

00:57:40.980 --> 00:57:50.670

Now, some people get confused between what, and our 2 species of tree frog, which includes spring paper and gray tree frog.

422

00:57:51.894 --> 00:58:06.804

Right off the bat I want to point out spring paper and gray tree frog have toe pads. So you can see in these photos. They have little circular disks on the ends of their toes. What? Frogs don't have that because what frogs don't climb trees. So that's a big distinguishing characteristic.

423  
00:58:06.985 --> 00:58:17.664

Also spring papers are very common during migrations there. Sometimes people can't even count them because there's so many, um, but there's a few things you can, um, use to help.

424  
00:58:17.664 --> 00:58:24.864

You understand the difference between the spring paper, and a wood frog spring paper, as you see in the middle photo doesn't have the ridges down. It's back.

425  
00:58:25.139 --> 00:58:30.960

It does have a very distinct cross on its back, which is where it gets its species name is Christopher.

426  
00:58:30.960 --> 00:58:41.699

Um, oh, there go our lights. Um, we'll get those on in a minute. This is our, the DEC building all the lights go off for energy saving at 6 o'clock. Um.

427  
00:58:41.699 --> 00:58:55.019

They, um, again, I said, as I mentioned, they're very common and they're very small, so they're only a half an inch to an inch and a half long. Whereas their largest size is like the smallest range of size for the wood frog.

428  
00:58:55.914 --> 00:59:08.784

A little bit bigger, um, is the other tree frog. We have here the gray tree frog and they are not that commonly seen during migrations. Maybe only a couple here or there. I rarely ever see them. And I've been looking for 15 more and more years.

429  
00:59:09.144 --> 00:59:22.824

Um, but their size kind of between papers and wood frogs, uh, they very bumpy skin compared to the, uh, the paper um, they also have this yellow ish wash in the kind of their groin area, and you can see that a little bit in the right. Here right. Um.

430  
00:59:23.394 --> 00:59:36.324

Hind legs in the photo, they also have dark blockages on their backside, which don't form that, uh, very distinct X. uh, that's on the back of the spring paper and again, they have 2 iPads.

431  
00:59:36.594 --> 00:59:45.025

Um, so those are some of the ways you can, um, make the identifications of these frog's less confusing also on migration nights.

432  
00:59:45.025 --> 00:59:51.835

Folks will see, uh, green frogs occasionally, both frogs, frogs, some Leopard frogs.

433

00:59:52.255 --> 01:00:06.235

And I just encourage you to look at the amphibian identification guide, or listen to the YouTube presentation that Emma recorded on identifying all those different species. But we just wanted to focus in on a few that are most readily or frequently confused.

434

01:00:07.434 --> 01:00:21.264

I also wanted to hit on a couple of other we have 15 minutes left, and we wanted to use this time to hit a couple, commonly asked questions and then also entertain some more of yours. So we've seen in a chat box or rather the Q a box a lot of questions on where to go to survey.

435

01:00:22.284 --> 01:00:34.614

So the answer to the question is, is there a map is the answer is no. So, when I started this project back in 2009, we didn't have a clue. There was not 1, like, location marked on a map anywhere.

436

01:00:34.614 --> 01:00:48.054

And we used to joke that if suddenly there was a windfall of funding for transportation improvements, that would prevent mortality of amphibians. We wouldn't even know where to develop those resources. So, um, and again, it's a huge geographic area.

437

01:00:48.054 --> 01:00:52.434

And so really without all of the help of volunteers throughout the Hudson Valley.

438

01:00:53.875 --> 01:01:08.034

We wouldn't even begin to know where they are. 1 of the challenges is some volunteers only go out once ever, and they go to 1 spot and we never see that spot visited again. So, um, if, uh, so we don't have a complete map.

439

01:01:08.394 --> 01:01:20.335

We, we're starting to have a collection of locations that we feel, um, are, uh, have been visited enough times and we can start to look at that. They, you know, consider them a hive activity. And those are the kinds of data analysis.

440

01:01:20.335 --> 01:01:34.735

We're just finishing up and looking forward to sharing with those project partners so that they can use that to inform where they're organizing volunteers. Um, you certainly can contact us and we can see if there's anywhere near where you live.

441

01:01:34.764 --> 01:01:45.655

Um, that is a known location, but we're also encouraging you to listen to the YouTube module. That talks about ways to find places to go.

442

01:01:45.894 --> 01:01:53.005

Um, and that basically boils down to large bars or areas of large parts and wetlands.

443

01:01:53.034 --> 01:02:04.195

So, places where there's, um, cause, even if there's a large swap, if there's isolated pockets of kind of fish, free water, um, there's a good chance that there might be some amphibian breeding. Um.

444

01:02:04.469 --> 01:02:18.534

By species that would normally use vernal pools on another recommendation, which I alluded to earlier is driving around with your windows down as much as you can handle the rain. Listening for what? Frogs calling. What? Frogs have a wonderful porous.

445

01:02:18.534 --> 01:02:29.304

The males arrive pretty early. Sometimes, even before salamanders are on the same nights as the sale managers arriving, and they're called the males are calling to lower the females and they sound like cracking ducks.

446

01:02:29.304 --> 01:02:40.585

And if you can learn that sound, it can help guide you to where there might be within pools. So, I think that's all I probably want to say about where to survey. Um.

447

01:02:40.860 --> 01:02:45.300

If you live outside the Hudson, a story water shed.

448

01:02:45.534 --> 01:02:54.085

What I would suggest if there's no other organization that's collecting your data, then please do you can go ahead and enter it in our survey 123 database.

449

01:02:54.085 --> 01:03:01.764

And I am going to share the data that we get from other DEC regional original offices are.

450

01:03:03.414 --> 01:03:17.094

From DEC regions with the offices that oversee those places. So we're in region 3. we also cover the program covers region 4 and parts of region 2, but there's all sorts of regions across the state of New York with different DEC offices.

451

01:03:17.094 --> 01:03:23.664

And, um, I will share your data with biologists in those offices. So it does not hurt to send those in um.

452

01:03:24.269 --> 01:03:39.054

Another question, uh, and I, for folks outside of New York, which I think last year we had somebody, um, I don't really have any contacts with agencies outside of New York. So I think I have to probably draw the boundary there. Um, is it okay to handle amphibians? So I talked about this earlier.

453

01:03:39.295 --> 01:03:51.385

Um, again, just it's okay to handle them. Just be careful. Don't grab them by their tails. Don't drop them. Um, if you're uncomfortable, trying to pick up an amphibian, some of the American codes are quite large.

454

01:03:51.534 --> 01:03:51.744

So,

455

01:03:51.744 --> 01:03:57.594

what I sometimes will do is if I have a laminated identification guide with me,

456

01:03:57.744 --> 01:04:02.094

I'll kind of scoot the very slow cold code onto the,

457

01:04:02.335 --> 01:04:02.784

uh,

458

01:04:02.815 --> 01:04:05.965

the laminated kind of paper that has a little bit of,

459

01:04:05.994 --> 01:04:06.505

um,

460

01:04:06.625 --> 01:04:07.494

strength to it.

461

01:04:07.554 --> 01:04:16.284

I'll just put my hand over the code and I'll carry it across the road and they also the laminated sheets are helpful for when you have these very small squirmy.

462

01:04:16.284 --> 01:04:30.565

Like, you can same thing, scoot them onto the laminated sheet, put your hand over it and carefully cross it. Um, things like spotted salamanders are very easy to pick up and carry just cover again with your hands because you don't want them.

463

01:04:30.925 --> 01:04:44.724

Sometimes they warm up. I think from the heat of our hands, even though we're moving them quickly, and they just start to get going and we want to move them across and not handle them for a long period of time. Keep them safe. Keep yourself safe again. Make sure your hands are clean. Free of chemicals.

464

01:04:45.054 --> 01:04:46.525

Don't touch your face.

465

01:04:46.590 --> 01:04:59.849

With your hands, you know, in the midst of this activity and watch them when you get home and again, if you're more comfortable using like a bucket that's okay. Um, and just be gentle. Remember these are living creatures and we're trying to help them and they're facing.

466

01:04:59.849 --> 01:05:08.070

Enough challenges without us, adding any to to their list. Um, and gloves are okay. Just make sure they're powder free.

467

01:05:08.070 --> 01:05:17.039

So, with that, I think we'll look maybe again at the chatbox and see what else is, uh, let's see.

468

01:05:17.039 --> 01:05:21.210

Let me bring up. I can't actually oh there. Oh, so sorry.

469

01:05:21.210 --> 01:05:25.920

I'm having a hard time, getting the question-and-answer box to show up. Here. We go there. It is.

470

01:05:29.760 --> 01:05:37.469

Um, okay, so we've answered some, which hopefully you can, um.

471

01:05:37.469 --> 01:05:41.730

Read, um, in the Q and a box, but, um.

472

01:05:41.730 --> 01:05:50.280

So, if somebody, okay, great. Uh, somebody said they're not receiving the email blasts. I've mentioned. Okay. So, um.

473

01:05:50.280 --> 01:06:01.110

Emma, since I'm sharing my screen, if you're able to go to the DEC delivers email, I sent to yesterday at the bottom. There's actually a direct link.

474

01:06:01.110 --> 01:06:04.829

To signing up and so I'm going to explain the confusion.

475

01:06:05.034 --> 01:06:16.945

When you go to the D. C website, there's a pop-up box that says subscribe to D. C. delivers and if you, you know, you enter that there's a long list of public newsletters this one's not considered public. Unfortunately.

476

01:06:17.155 --> 01:06:31.824

So you have to go to our project webpage and actually fill out the DEC delivers box there that says, sign up for, um, um, migration alerts and project updates. You can either do that, or, um.

477

01:06:32.099 --> 01:06:41.130

We'll we'll put the direct link for that DEC delivers newsletter, sign up in a chat box. Do you see that at the very bottom it says if you don't.

478

01:06:42.210 --> 01:06:52.735

Well, we're gonna work on trying to do that if it doesn't make it into the chatbox tonight we'll include that in the follow up email. We sent out to you. Thanks for bringing that up. I meant to do that myself. And I'm glad you did.

479

01:06:53.155 --> 01:07:03.204

Um, somebody asks, is there an ideal number of volunteers per location?  
Um, that is really a factor of how busy it is in terms of amphibian activity.

480

01:07:03.445 --> 01:07:03.835

Um,

481

01:07:03.864 --> 01:07:04.074

you know,

482

01:07:04.074 --> 01:07:07.105

you might go out and scope around and find a site that,

483

01:07:07.135 --> 01:07:07.675

um,

484

01:07:08.094 --> 01:07:08.335

uh,

485

01:07:08.335 --> 01:07:10.764

you've never found before and you recognize,

486

01:07:10.764 --> 01:07:15.715

you only brought 2 people and it wasn't enough to keep up with the amount of amphibian activity in that case,

487

01:07:15.985 --> 01:07:16.375

you know,

488

01:07:16.405 --> 01:07:17.695

up the numbers of people,

489

01:07:17.695 --> 01:07:19.644

maybe you can recruit to go out to that site.

490

01:07:19.675 --> 01:07:32.875

Um, I'm often at a site where maybe just 2 of us it's okay. 2 or 3 of us, because it's very diffuse across about a mile long road and we kind of just keep driving slowly back and forth. Um, and getting out of the car and moving everything. We see.

491

01:07:33.119 --> 01:07:36.690

Every site is different and so I'm sorry, I can't give.

492

01:07:36.690 --> 01:07:41.730

Um, black and white kind of guidance, cause it's, it's really, um, requires.

493

01:07:42.114 --> 01:07:50.815

Kind of adaptation based on the site and what I would do too, is just feel free to always follow up with us with questions. If you have any.

Um, I have to tell you all that.

494

01:07:50.815 --> 01:08:05.065



Um, I would be lost without Emma helping, because the amount of email we get this time of year, the amount of press requests that I get the amount of inquiries about the project. People interested in doing research with the data. It's like analysts and it's so wonderful because this is the awareness I've always envisioned.

495

01:08:05.244 --> 01:08:17.725

However, there's also a lot of other projects going on and so we can, unfortunately drop everything for this. So, I want to say, thank you in advance for your patients. If we don't get back to you right away and also, again, thank Emma for keeping up with emails that I can't.

496

01:08:18.420 --> 01:08:23.489

Okay, is there a best time so great the link.

497

01:08:23.489 --> 01:08:30.930

To sign up for the DEC delivers newsletter about this project are, uh, is in the chat box. Thank you Emma. Um.

498

01:08:30.930 --> 01:08:35.909

Oh, great, I'm happy to see people's excitement and thanks. Um.

499

01:08:35.909 --> 01:08:44.760

Do you have a suggestion about how volunteers can find each other and coordinate in a local area share information about where to go et cetera is working with a partner organization? The best way to do that?

500

01:08:44.760 --> 01:08:51.960

So that depends if you have a partner organization who's helping with the project um, I'll tell you the towns of pound bridge.

501

01:08:51.960 --> 01:09:01.590

The town of Bedford both use their conservation advisory or conservation boards. They are elevated to boards. Many towns, have environmental conservation committees.

502

01:09:01.590 --> 01:09:15.505

Um, conservation advisory councils, they are appointed groups of volunteers to help advise on environmental issues in their communities. And I think they can be a great way to organize locally.

503

01:09:15.564 --> 01:09:16.345

We have,

504

01:09:16.375 --> 01:09:17.095

um,

505

01:09:17.154 --> 01:09:19.045

now that we are YouTube videos,

506

01:09:19.074 --> 01:09:19.494

uh,

507

01:09:19.524 --> 01:09:20.305

are available,  
508  
01:09:20.305 --> 01:09:21.234  
and I shouldn't say videos,  
509  
01:09:21.234 --> 01:09:22.585  
they're recording presentations,  
510  
01:09:22.975 --> 01:09:24.085  
but now that they're available,  
511  
01:09:24.085 --> 01:09:24.265  
you know,  
512  
01:09:24.265 --> 01:09:26.574  
you can host a group,  
513  
01:09:26.604 --> 01:09:27.414  
um,  
514  
01:09:27.564 --> 01:09:28.585  
training or,  
515  
01:09:28.614 --> 01:09:28.944  
you know,  
516  
01:09:28.944 --> 01:09:31.255  
get everybody to watch it on their own or get everybody in a room,  
517  
01:09:31.255 --> 01:09:34.494  
if it's coded safe to watch it together and then,  
518  
01:09:34.494 --> 01:09:35.064  
um,  
519  
01:09:35.095 --> 01:09:35.335  
go,  
520  
01:09:35.335 --> 01:09:35.604  
you know,  
521  
01:09:35.635 --> 01:09:40.795  
maybe look at some maps and think about potential places that look like  
they're suitable for,  
522  
01:09:40.795 --> 01:09:41.095  
um,  
523  
01:09:41.095 --> 01:09:44.604  
for us and wheland particularly vulnerable habitat.  
524  
01:09:44.699 --> 01:09:49.680  
And find where those roads, um, areas, and, and use those roads to  
monitor.

525

01:09:49.680 --> 01:09:50.755

That's 1 way,

526

01:09:50.755 --> 01:09:51.085

um,

527

01:09:51.354 --> 01:09:51.564

you know,

528

01:09:51.564 --> 01:09:53.904

recently the Rhinebeck climate,

529

01:09:53.904 --> 01:09:54.295

smart,

530

01:09:54.354 --> 01:09:54.864

um,

531

01:09:54.895 --> 01:09:55.944

task force,

532

01:09:55.975 --> 01:09:57.444

they decided to take this on,

533

01:09:57.475 --> 01:09:57.895

you know,

534

01:09:58.435 --> 01:10:07.585

climate change is also a threat to the species because of the erratic precipitation events and droughts that are going to affect how long vernal pools hold water.

535

01:10:08.274 --> 01:10:19.944

And so, and habitat connectivity is also something really important for time adaptation. So I'm really thrilled to see their group getting involved, um, local land trust, or another great partner, which we've, we've had.

536

01:10:19.944 --> 01:10:23.574

So, there's many different groups that might be appropriate for taking this on.

537

01:10:23.845 --> 01:10:36.564

Um, I think it just depends on the level of interest and the capacity but what I was going to point out is in addition to the, um, uh, the recorded trainings on YouTube, this is going to be recorded. Um.

538

01:10:36.869 --> 01:10:46.829

I'm embarrassed to say at this point, because I'm talking like, a mile a minute, but also, if in person trainings become.

539

01:10:46.829 --> 01:10:58.555

Safe again, I have all the instructions to do what I call our mock migration, which is where I had a photo in 1 of my slides earlier, where we actually do an indoor migration without live amphibians.

540

01:10:58.555 --> 01:11:07.375

We have, um, 2 size, laminated, amphibians cut out and we spread them out on the floor and we turn off the lights and everybody has to dress with headlamps.

541

01:11:07.375 --> 01:11:07.435

So,

542

01:11:07.435 --> 01:11:08.755

they recognize how hard it is,

543

01:11:08.784 --> 01:11:09.175

um,

544

01:11:09.204 --> 01:11:09.864

to see,

545

01:11:10.135 --> 01:11:10.314

uh,

546

01:11:10.345 --> 01:11:12.444

there's no rain involved and there's no cars,

547

01:11:12.444 --> 01:11:15.295

but it's a chance to go through using the data form,

548

01:11:15.295 --> 01:11:21.145

using the identification guide and kind of go through the motions before you're actually out on a rainy night with cars,

549

01:11:21.414 --> 01:11:24.085

because it's very difficult to plan how to practice this,

550

01:11:24.085 --> 01:11:29.574

because it only happens on a few nights each year and it's happening across hundreds and hundreds of miles.

551

01:11:29.904 --> 01:11:32.664

So, um, so I hope that helps answer that question.

552

01:11:35.845 --> 01:11:50.515

Let's see. Well, 1st, how are we doing time? Oh, we're supposed to end in 2 minutes. Okay, so I'm going to, um, uh, 1st, thank you all for the excellent thoughtful questions. Um, I, we're going to look through the Q and a box if there's any.

553

01:11:50.789 --> 01:11:57.569

Questions that we didn't get to tonight. We're going to have a record of them, and we're going to try to include those in the follow up email that will be sent out.

554

01:11:57.569 --> 01:12:12.539

Okay, and big kudos to carry gentry for taking that amazing photo during I think it was last year's migration that looks like a very skinny hungry wood frog, and I hope that's a jumping warm. Um, okay. So.

555

01:12:12.539 --> 01:12:17.550

We wanted to do a quick debrief and wrap up before we close for the evening. Um.

556

01:12:18.114 --> 01:12:30.354

So, 1st, just to remind you that you can watch the full presentations we've mentioned at any time on YouTube, and you can download and print the volunteer handbook and you can even use that to help organize if you want to do your own training.

557

01:12:30.805 --> 01:12:44.095

Um, and always, certainly reach out to us for advice. Um, after this training, you're going to be automatically directed to a program evaluation, a little pop up. Like, this will show up that says you're being directed to an external site.

558

01:12:44.125 --> 01:12:57.385

That's just because it's taking you to our survey. I hope we'll, you'll continue and move through that a little pop-up box, because we really value and appreciate your feedback. And in the next week, you'll receive an email with follow-up information and resources.

559

01:12:57.930 --> 01:13:11.010

And we always like to close with a little moment to, uh, get choked up and think about what we're doing here. And so, uh, I was just going to share this poem bird. foot's grandpa. Um, by Joseph, with, you.

560

01:13:11.664 --> 01:13:25.314

This is about toads, but you can imagine, it's about any of the species that we're focused on for vernal pool breeding. Um, so the old man must have stopped our car 2 dozen times to climb out and gather into his hands.

561

01:13:25.314 --> 01:13:32.305

The small toads blinded by our lights and leaping live drops of rain. The rain was falling.

562

01:13:32.640 --> 01:13:46.975

A missed about his white hair, and I kept saying, you can't save them all, except it get back in. We've got places to go, but luxury hands, full of wet brown, life, knee, deep in summer, roadside grass.

563

01:13:47.425 --> 01:13:50.664

He just smiled and said they have places to go to.

564

01:13:51.534 --> 01:14:06.354

And I know you all have places to go and so we don't want to keep you longer than we said we would. Um, and just want to give our very

heartfelt thanks for your interest, your enthusiasm, your time and for whatever you decide to do this migration season.

565

01:14:06.354 --> 01:14:17.454

If you want to volunteer, you wanted to go out and watch the migration or discover these pieces for your 1st time. Just be careful, be safe and, um, and keep us posted.

566

01:14:20.039 --> 01:14:23.039

And thank you.