

Signs of the Seasons: A Maine Phenology Project

Phenophase Definitions

Wood Frog, *Lithobates sylvaticus*

Directions:

As you report on phenophase status (Y, N, or?) on the datasheets, refer to the definitions on this sheet to find out what you should look for, for each phenophase in each species. For reporting animal abundance, if a specific question is included below the phenophase, choose the best answer to the question. If there is no specific question, enter the number of individual animals you observed in each phenophase.



Figure 1: Adult wood frog. Image source: A. Shearin, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Activity

How many individuals do you see?

Adults on land

One or more adults are seen at rest or active on land.

Adults in water

One or more adults are seen at rest or active in water.

Adults feeding

One or more adults are seen feeding. If possible, record the name of the species or substance being eaten or describe it in the comments field.



Figure 2: Adult wood frog. Image source: A. Shearin, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Reproduction

Vocalizing

One or more individuals are heard vocalizing.

What is the intensity of vocalizing?

- **Single calls:** There is a space between calls and individuals can be counted.
- **Overlapping calls:** Calls of individuals can be distinguished but there is some overlapping of calls.
- **Full chorus:** Calls are constant and overlapping.

Audio for Wood Frog Calls: To hear examples of Wood frog and other amphibian calls, you can visit the [Missouri Department of Conservation](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/conservation/).

Mating

A female is seen grasped and held by a male.

How many individuals do you see?

Fresh eggs

Eggs are seen being extruded, an egg mass is seen with jelly not expanded to full size, or embryos that are more or less spherical are seen.

How many egg masses do you see?



Figure 3: Mating wood frogs. Image source: A. Shearin, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Development

Dead adults

One or more dead adults are seen, including those found on roads.

How many individuals do you see?



Figure 4: Image source – University of Maine, Vernal Pool Indicator Species Field ID cards.