



## 2017 Fall Newsletter

Greetings,

Another FrogWatch USA monitoring season has ended, and it was a fantastic 19th year of the program! Based on what has been submitted to date, nearly 10,800 species observations were recorded at nearly 840 wetland sites in 2017 - go [online](#) and see where. This amazingly rich snapshot of frog and toad activity across the country is only possible because of the contributions from each and every one of you. Thank you so much for your efforts!

### Enter and Explore Data Online



Be sure to enter all of your observations from the February 1- August 31 season [online](#). FrogWatch USA data have been collected since 1998 and the entire dataset is available on FrogWatch-FieldScope. After checking that all of your data have

been entered, create [maps](#) and [graphs](#) to explore frog and toad data nationwide. These are a great way to see how your observations contribute to our understanding of frogs and toads.

We have many available resources to help you enter and explore the data, including a [free online course](#). Your chapter coordinator is also a great resource, so feel free to reach out to them if you have any questions, or email us a [frogwatch@aza.org](mailto:frogwatch@aza.org).

### Thank You, Volunteers!

FrogWatch USA has an incredibly dedicated volunteer base. We wanted to recognize the following volunteers for their consistent monitoring for (at least!) the past five years:

Adam S. (AR)	Ann E. (MO)	Barbara F. (SC)
Bob & Donna K. (PA)	Cathy M. (IN)	Chris H. (TN)
Dave & Kate L. (VA)	Denise W. (MD)	Dolores R. (VA)

### Helpful Online Resources

- [Find a local chapter](#)
- [Register for training](#)
- [Explore online training options](#)
- [Enter data](#)
- [View past newsletters](#)

### Find New Chapters in Your Community

We extend a warm welcome to our newest chapters:

- [Cajun FrogWatch of Louisiana \(LA\)](#)
- [Stark Parks FrogWatch USA \(OH\)](#)

### What Did Volunteers Hear?

In 2017, 87 frog and toad species, subspecies, and species complexes were reported by FrogWatch USA volunteers. The most frequently reported were the:

- [Spring Peeper](#)
- [Green Frog](#)
- [Gray Treefrog](#)
- [American Bullfrog](#)
- [American Toad](#)

Do you have any fun images or recordings of these species from your monitoring visits? Share them on our [Facebook](#) page!

Frank T. (NJ)	Gail E. (NY)	Janet W. (MS)
Julie K. (KS)	Karen G. (IN)	Ken P. (MD)
Lisa B. (VA)	Lorri G. (CA)	Matt N. (DC)
Meo C. (MD)	Pam F. (MD)	Randy & Debbie T. (AR)
Rene I. (MD)	Ron D. (MD)	Rusty W. (SC)
Sabrina F. (MD)	Scott N. (IN)	Sharon B. (AR)
Stephanie M. (VA)	Sue M. (MD)	Susan W. (MA)
Tom K. (AR)	Yohn S. (VA)	

## Get Your Family Outdoors



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Kids love exploring nature, and research shows it's good for them! This summer, through participating in FrogWatch USA, our younger volunteers and their families got to experience the joys of being outside, learn the importance of science, and grow an appreciation for frog and toad habitats. The fun doesn't have to stop just because the summer is over! Seek out [other ways](#) to engage in [Nature Play](#) at AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums, at the wetlands you monitor, and even in your own backyard.

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## Frog Facts: Making Noise



Have you ever wondered how frogs make their characteristic sounds? Frogs croak by breathing in, closing their nostrils, and then forcing air back and forth between their lungs and vocal sac. This makes the air vibrate and the vocal sac amplifies the sound.

Frogs croak for several reasons, particularly when males call to attract females during the mating season. These are the calls FrogWatch USA volunteers listen for and record!

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Mating calls can be made individually or as a chorus when multiple males converge at a breeding site. Many females will respond to the males' calls, which reinforces reproductive activity. Right before rainstorms, frog calls will become louder as males try to attract a female. More rain means more vernal pools and temporary ponds, both of which make an excellent home for developing tadpoles. Male frogs can also emit a territorial call. Some frogs, like the coastal tailed frog, do not vocalize at all, while others lack vocal sacs entirely but can still make loud calls.

We hope you had a lovely FrogWatch USA season - see you next year!

**The AZA FrogWatch USA Team**  
 Association of Zoos & Aquariums  
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 Silver Spring, MD 20910

## Stay Connected

Follow us on social media for updates, announcements, and tons of fun content:



[frogwatch@aza.org](mailto:frogwatch@aza.org)  
[www.frogwatch.org](http://www.frogwatch.org)

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