

**Reptile and Amphibian Observations In York County, VA
Data Sheet – prepared by Tim Christensen**

- 1. Species observed:**
- 2. Date:**
- 3. Time of day:**
- 4. Location (provide as much information as possible including latitude and longitude, address, etc)**
- 5. Type of property (residential, state park, county park, private land other than a residence, etc).**
- 6. Describe the immediate habitat (forest, forest edge, pond, stream, etc).**
- 7. Describe the microhabitat (under a log, in a tree, lawn, on a particular plant, in the road, etc).**
- 8. Visual observation or vocalizing frogs/toads?**
- 9. Are photos available? Include name and contact information of person who took the photograph.**
- 10. If amphibian, indicate whether larvae or adult. If larvae, estimate the number observed if more than one.**
- 11. Did you note any special behavior(s) or interactions with other organisms?**

Instructions for Completing the Data Sheet

Purpose. This project comprises preparation of a manuscript entitled “Reptiles and Amphibians of York County”. When completed it will be a reference document made available to the York County Extension Office to inform and educate citizens as to the reptile and amphibian species that occur in the County.

General. This data will be used in conjunction with confirmed documentation and other records. Only record data for reptile and amphibian species actually observed in York County.

Data from previous observations are appropriate. Even if you observed a given reptile and amphibian in York County several years ago, the data can still be used.

Any data collected between now and May 30, 2010 will also be used. This date might be extended depending on availability of information. Use the reverse side to include more information.

1. Species observed. Use common or scientific name if known. If you are not sure of the species, use your best guess. If photographs are available, it can probably be identified most of the time. Please send data sheets/photos of the same species even if you recorded once already – especially if it was observed in different locations.
2. Date. Indicate the date it was observed. If actual date is not known, the month and year is fine. Seasons can also be used if the date is uncertain. Just leave blank if not known.
3. Time of day. Indicate the time of day that the animal was observed. Include time of day if known (use military time or AM and PM). If you don't know the actual time is unknown just note whether morning, afternoon or night. Leave blank if you do not know.
4. Location. Provide as much information as possible. Latitude and longitude will work but you can also provide a street address or community/development name as well as nearest street intersections or a well known landmark. This will help provide insight for where certain species have been sighted.
5. Type of property. Was the animal observed in someone's backyard, at a County park, at Newport News Park, the Colonial National Historic Park (including the Colonial Parkway), a military installation, a school, an industrial site or other private property such as an area that is not a residence per se.
6. Immediate habitat. Provide as much information as feasibly possible but don't let this intimidate you. Examples might include forest, mixed hardwood-pine forest, vernal pool, pond, garden pond, reservoir, swamp, marsh, open field, lawn, inside a building, etc. Use your best guess or leave blank if uncertain.
7. Microhabitat. Was the animal found under a log, inside a log, in a tree/on a branch, in a crawlspace, on a particular plant, on or in aquatic vegetation, etc.

8. Visual or vocalizing. Did you see it or did you hear it calling? Calling will normally be associated with frogs and toads.
9. Do you have a photograph(s) available? Include the photographer's name and contact information. Photos can be of any quality. They will be used to confirm identification and certain one may be used in the manuscript but only with permission of the photographer.
10. Amphibians larvae. If you observed only larvae and think you know the species, include it.
11. Behavior. What was the animal doing when you observed it (climbing a tree, etc)? Was it interacting with something else (for example, was it in a predator-prey relationship, etc)? Was it dead (this is appropriate information to include as it will still be information to confirm occurrence)?

Where to send information

You can email data sheets and photos or send through regular mail.

Please use mtnc066@msn.com as the email address. Please send 1-2 photos at a time. If you have a lot of photos and data sheets, save them to a CD and mail to:

Tim Christensen
113 Davids Way
Yorktown, VA 23692

Questions? Just send me an email message.