

Blue-spotted Salamander

Blue-spotted Salamander - *State Endangered Species* - Pl.22
(*Ambystoma laterale*)

Identification: 3" - 5 1/2". The Blue-spotted Salamander closely resembles the somewhat larger Jefferson Salamander, and hybridization between the species makes identification even more difficult (see Jefferson Salamander above for details). The ground color of the Blue-spotted Salamander is blue-black. Lighter blue spots and speckles sprinkle the back, sides, and tail (note that the Jefferson Salamander may have blue speckles on the sides, but not the back). The area around the vent is black.

Where to find them: Breeds in woodland vernal pools, marshes, swamps, and ditches. The terrestrial adult is found in mature woods where there are rotting logs and deep humus, and slightly above water level in swamps and marshlands.

When to find them: Breeds in late winter and early spring.

Range: Northern Region: Somerset, Morris, Essex, Warren, and Sussex .

Conservation Status: The Blue-Spotted Salamander was listed as an endangered species in New Jersey in 1974. This species exhibits strong fidelity to its breeding ponds and has suffered from degraded water quality in these ponds. Our expanding network of roads has also negatively impacted this species by impeding salamander movements into breeding ponds and increasing the incidence of roadside mortality of this species.

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(*Ambystoma laterale*) - text pg. 31

Key Features

- Robust with blue and white flecks on a blueish-black body.
- Relatively long toes.



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Excerpt from: "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey"
Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>