

Spotted Salamander

Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) - Pl.22

Identification: 4 3/8" - 9 3/4". The Spotted Salamander is a big, heavy-bodied salamander. The ground color is black, blue-black, or dark gray on the back; the underside is slate gray. Two irregular rows of yellow or orange spots run the entire length of the animal along the sides of the back. Some populations lack spots or are faintly spotted. The underside is unmarked or may have tiny yellow flecks. Ground color in the young is black or dark brown.

Where to find them: The Spotted Salamander breeds in large groups in vernal ponds in early spring, when the first warm rains occur. It prefers deciduous or mixed woods. Outside of breeding season, it may be found under debris in humid conditions.

When to find them: Adults can be observed moving into vernal pools sometime after the first spring rain as early as the beginning of March. They will remain in these breeding ponds for up to a month before moving back to their terrestrial dwellings.

Range: Northern and Western part of the state outside the Pinelands.

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Key Features

- Robust salamander with yellow or orange spots arranged in irregular rows and extending along the entire length of the body.
- Belly slate or gray colored.



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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>