

New Jersey Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata kalmi*)

Pennsylvania Endangered Amphibian

State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled), Global Rank: G5T4 (secure)

Identification

This subspecies of the western chorus frog is similar in size (3/4 - 1 1/2 inches long), but is somewhat more robust. The outermost pair of the three dark stripes on the back start at the snout and continue backward through the eye and down each side. These may be variously broken. A prominent light line is present beneath each eye along the upper lip.



Photo Credit: Robert T. Zappalorti, Nature's Images

Biology-Natural History

New Jersey chorus frogs move to small, sometimes temporary, bodies of water to breed, anytime from February to June.

Males may arrive at the ponds before females and call loudly from sedgy or grassy clumps in the open. The eggs are deposited irregularly in loose gelatinous masses on the stems of matted vegetation not far below the surface of the water. The 1 - to 1 1/2-inch tadpoles are blackish to olive above with a bronzy belly. They transform to the adult stage within two months. Adults leave the breeding pools following mating and egg laying, and are only occasionally encountered in wooded areas during the remainder of the year.

Habitat

In Pennsylvania the New Jersey chorus frog breeds in small, relatively open bodies of water with a mixture of shrubby and herbaceous aquatic vegetation, or sometimes in the shallow backwater areas of larger bodies of water with similar vegetation.

Reasons for Being Endangered

The populations of the New Jersey chorus frog in Pennsylvania are small and threatened because of heavy industrial use of the areas they inhabit. Many of the small breeding ponds and forested areas they require have been filled in or cleared.

Management Practices

The Fish and Boat Commission reviews projects in which possible threats to the habitat of this small frog is concerned. Also, the populations are monitored each spring.

