

Protecting Vernal Pools

Non-Breeding Habitat

OBLIGATES



Non-breeding habitat for obligate vernal pool-breeding amphibians is found in the uplands surrounding breeding pools. Protecting populations of these species requires that we look beyond the pool itself, and even the 100 feet immediately surrounding the pool. These animals will migrate from non-breeding habitat as many as several hundred feet away. Retaining some of that non-breeding habitat, as well as preserving migratory pathways to the breeding pool, is essential to effectively protecting these populations.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>AVERAGE*</u> <u>DISTANCE</u>	<u>MAXIMUM</u> <u>DISTANCE</u>
Marbled Salamander, <i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	368 ft	1476 ft
Spotted Salamander, <i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	390 ft	817 ft
Jefferson Salamander, <i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	476 ft	2051 ft
Wood frog, <i>Rana sylvatica</i>	633 ft	1549 ft

*DISTANCES REPORTED IN *SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION OF VERNAL POOLS IN NORTHEASTERN NORTH AMERICA* BY CALHOUN AND deMAYNADIER, 2008

Non-breeding habitat for a particular species is concentrated in areas where conditions are best. For mole salamanders, this will generally include south-facing slopes, well-drained soils, and deciduous tree canopy. Knowing habitat preferences of the organisms found in a pool can help focus attention on the most important non-breeding habitat.