

# Have you seen or heard a Mountain Chorus Frog?



Photo courtesy of Matthew L. Niemiller



*Above:* The distinct markings are visible on the back of the Mountain Chorus Frog, which range in color between various shades of brown. *Below:* The Spring Peeper, which is more plentiful in the region, has a distinct X pattern on its back.



Photo: Courtesy of John White

## Why are we searching for the Mountain Chorus Frog?

Not much is known about the distribution of this species, so sightings by the public will help us document areas where they can be found.

## Identifying characteristics include:

- Two dark stripes down the back that curve inward in the shape of reversed parenthesis that look like ) ( or sometimes an X
- A dark mask through the eyes and snout
- A light or white upper lip
- A call that can be heard between February and April, sometimes even into June, that sounds like a raspy “wreenk”

*Note: The Spring Peeper is more plentiful in our region and may have similar markings on the back. The distinguishing differences are that the Spring Peeper will not have a white area above the lip and its call sounds more like a high-pitched “peep.”*

## Suggested places to look & listen include:

- Shallow grassy wetlands, ponds and ditches

## You can assist our scientific research by sharing information.

If you see or hear a Mountain Chorus Frog, we ask only that you take a photo with a camera or cell phone and, if possible, record its call with your Voice Memos app.

Please send information to:

**Wally Smith**

The University of Virginia’s College at Wise  
(276) 376-4642  
whs2q@uvawise.edu

**Kevin Hamed**

Virginia Tech  
(540) 231-1887  
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If you would like to hear a sample call, please go to [www.mtchorusfrog.fishwild.vt.edu](http://www.mtchorusfrog.fishwild.vt.edu)



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Mountain Chorus Frog research is a collaborative project of Virginia Tech, The University of Virginia’s College at Wise and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Each is an EEO/AA organization.