

A New England Vernal Pool

Scattered through the woodlands of New England, vernal pools are temporary water bodies fed by snowmelt and heavy rains of autumn and spring. These small, fishless pools generally hold water for a few months during the spring and often dry up entirely by midsummer. Despite their modest size, vernal pools

are especially valuable in providing a breeding habitat for wildlife such as the spotted salamander, wood frog, fairy shrimp and other invertebrates. Because these species are especially vulnerable to fish predation, their ability to reproduce successfully relies, to a great extent, on the fishless nature of vernal pools.

THROUGH THE SEASONS

EARLY SPRING

LATE SPRING

SUMMER



Vernal Pool Wildlife:

1. Cinnamon Fern Fiddleheads
2. Spring Peeper
3. Spotted Salamanders
4. Mating Wood Frogs
5. Wood Frog

6. Wood Duck
7. (a) Spotted Salamander Egg Mass
(b) Wood Frog Egg Mass
8. Wood Frog Tadpoles
9. Fairy Shrimp
10. Spermatophore (Spotted Salamander)
11. White Tailed Deer

12. (a) Caddisfly Larva
(b) Predaceous Diving Beetle Larva
(c) Dragonfly Nymph
13. Spotted Turtle
14. (a) Spotted Salamander Larvae
(b) Wood Frog Larva

15. (a) Mosquito Larva
(b) Whirligig Beetle
(c) Water Strider
16. (a) Giant Water Bug
(b) Backswimmer
(c) Predaceous Diving Beetle
17. Fingernail Clams

18. Wood Frog Juvenile
19. Spotted Salamander Juvenile
20. Marbled Salamander
21. Ring-Necked Snake
22. Dragonfly
23. Caddisfly Cases
24. American Toad