RI Division of Fish and Wildlife
Herp Observer

Become a community scientist and help reptiles and amphibians!

Do you like spending time outdoors? Want to get involved with helping wildlife in Rhode Island? Join RIDEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife as a community scientist by downloading our free Herp Observer app! Herp Observer allows members of the public to easily submit your observations of amphibians and reptiles (aka "herps") from anywhere in the state directly to our secure databases.

Many of the reptile and amphibian species in Rhode Island need our help. Observations submitted through Herp Observer give us a better understanding of where species can be found in the state.

This information is essential for effective conservation and management of these hard to find animals. You don't have to find a rare species to participate. Observations of all species, both common and rare, are welcome!

On behalf of the slimy, scaly, slow-moving, and shy critters of Rhode Island, thanks for being a Herp Observer!

Spring peeper (Christopher Raithel)   *Eastern box turtle (Peter Paton)*   *Marbled salamander (Christopher Raithel)*   *Garter snake (Christopher Raithel)*

Questions about Herp Observer?

Contact Chris Thawley
Herpetologist/Species of Greatest Conservation Need Coordinator
Christopher.Thawley.CTR@dem.ri.gov

How to use
Herp Observer

FIRST you will have to download the app Survey123 on your smartphone:

1. Download "Survey123 for ArcGIS" from the app store. It's free.

2. Navigate to the following URL (make sure to use capitalization as written) from your smartphone: https://arcg.is/1P1X9r0

3. You will have the option to open the app in a browser or the app … select the app.

4. You will be prompted to open this page in Survey123. Select Open. Click "Proceed without Logging In."

5. The app will automatically download the latest version of Herp Observer and you're all set. When you reopen Survey123, Herp Observer will appear in "My Surveys."

6. If done in this order, there's no need to enter a username and password!

7. Click on the Herp Observer icon within Survey123 and you're all set to begin entering data!

You can also scan this QR code to access the HerpObserver survey on your smartphone.

Bullfrog (Gabrielle DeMeillon)

Northern diamondback terrapin (Gabrielle DeMeillon)

Eastern red-spotted newt (Christopher Raithel)

Eastern hognose snake (Mike Stultz)

Did you know?
Rhode Island is home to over 40 species of reptiles and amphibians.

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How to use
Herp Observer

To use Herp Observer in a browser on your PC:

1. Navigate to the following URL from your PC (make sure to use capitalization as written):
https://arcg.is/1P1X9r0

2. You will have the option to open the app in a browser or the app … select browser.

3. The Herp Observer survey will open in your default browser and you're all set to begin entering data!

To enter data into Herp Observer, please follow the instructions on the next page.

Step 1: Enter your name and email address so that we may contact you if needed.
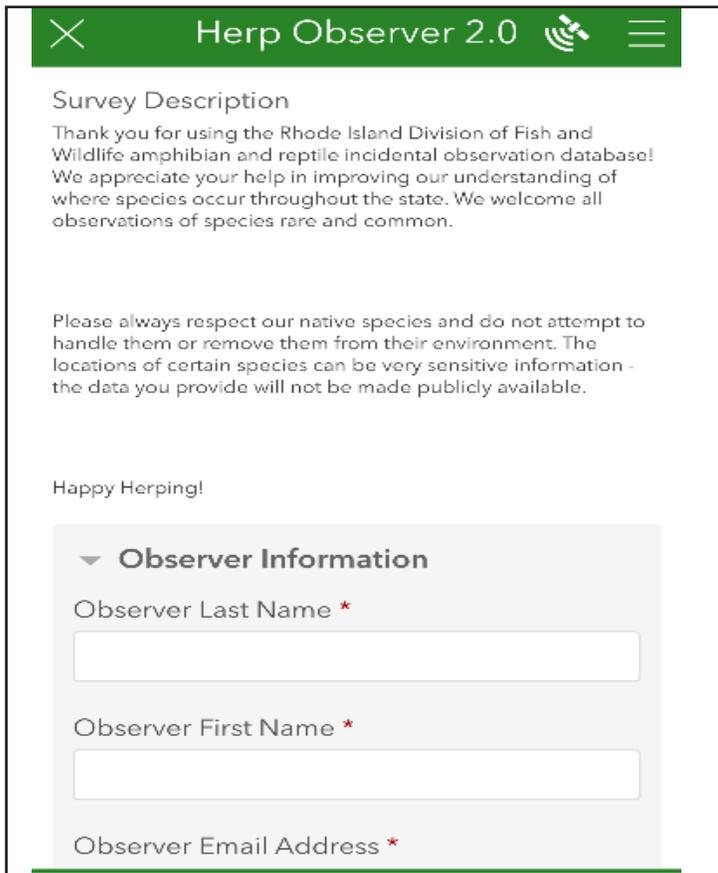
Herp Observer 2.0

Survey Description

Thank you for using the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife amphibian and reptile incidental observation database! We appreciate your help in improving our understanding of where species occur throughout the state. We welcome all observations of species rare and common.

Please always respect our native species and do not attempt to handle them or remove them from their environment. The locations of certain species can be very sensitive information - the data you provide will not be made publicly available.

Happy Herping!

▼ Observer Information

Observer Last Name *

Observer First Name *

Observer Email Address *

Spring salamander and Northern ring-necked snake (Christopher Raithel)

Step 2: Scroll down to the Location section. If you are using your smartphone with location services turned on, the app should default to your current location. If not, or if entering on a PC, use the map portal to navigate to the location of your observation. If you have exact coordinates, you can enter those instead. There is no need to enter coordinates if the map is showing the location of the observation.
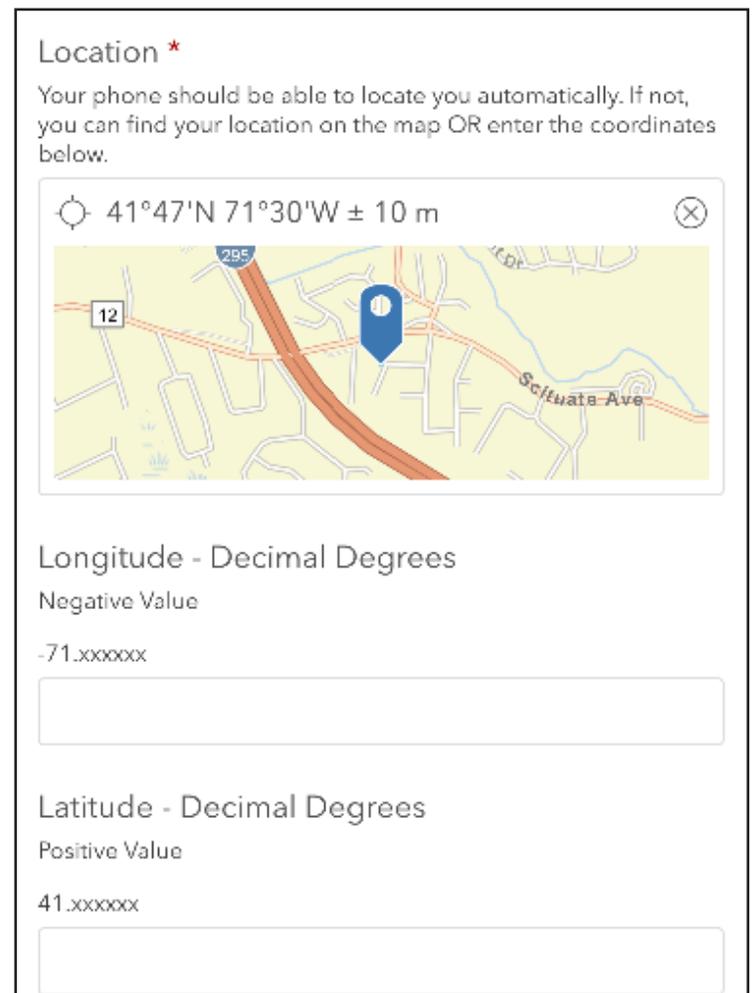
Location *

Your phone should be able to locate you automatically. If not, you can find your location on the map OR enter the coordinates below.

41°47'N 71°30'W ± 10 m
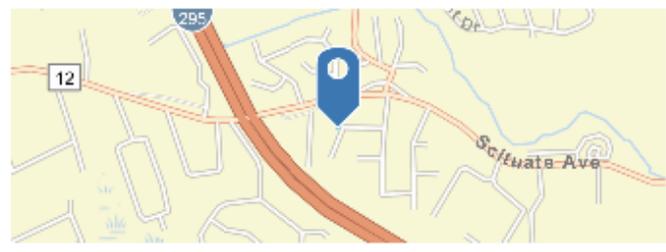
Longitude - Decimal Degrees
Negative Value

-71.xxxxxx

Latitude - Decimal Degrees
Positive Value

41.xxxxxx

Did you know?
There are 8 salamander and 10 frog and toad species in Rhode Island.

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Step 3: Scroll down to the Species Observed section. Select the type of species from the dropdown menu (Frog, Salamander, Snake, or Turtle). A new dropdown menu will appear – select the species observed. You will have an option for each native species found in Rhode Island. If you are unsure of the species or think that you have observed something different, select other.

Step 4: Scroll down. Enter the date and time that the observation took place.

**You're almost done!
We just need a couple more things.**

Painted turtle (Mary Gannon)

Northern leopard frog (Christopher Raithel)

Red-bellied snake (Christopher Raithel)

Eastern spadefoot toad (Christopher Raithel)

Did you know?

There are 7 native and 1 non-native turtle species in Rhode Island. there are also 4 sea turtle species found seasonally off RI's coast.

Step 5: Scroll down to Observation Details. Enter whether your observation was visual or audio (if you heard frogs calling) from the dropdown menu. Enter whether the animal you observed was alive, dead, or dead on the road. Make an estimate of the number of individual animals observed. A photo or audio recording will be used to verify all observations. The app requires a photo to be submitted - if your observation is audio only, please submit a photo of the habitat from which you heard the animal(s).

Step 6: Scroll down to bottom of page. Enter any comments that might be helpful. Click the "Submit" button if using a PC. Click the checkmark on the bottom right if using your smartphone. Your observation will be automatically uploaded to our secure database. You're all set!

▼ Observation Details

Method of Observation *
Did you see or hear the animal(s)?

| Visual observation | ⌄ |

Condition of Specimen *

| Alive | ⌄ |

Number of Individuals *
Did you see a single individual or multiple individuals? If you saw many individuals an estimate is OK.

| 3 | ⊗ |

Photo *
Please provide a photo to verify your observation. If your observation was audible only, please submit a photo of the habitat where the animal was.

Audio
Please record audio for any submissions of frog calls.

🎤

Extra Photo
A photo from a different angle may help us confirm species ID or be able to sex the individual.

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Comments

Thanks for being a Herp Observer!

Gray tree frog (Mary Gannon)   *Smooth green snake (Christopher Raithel)*

Did you know?
There are 12 snake species Rhode Island.

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