

Call of the Wetland

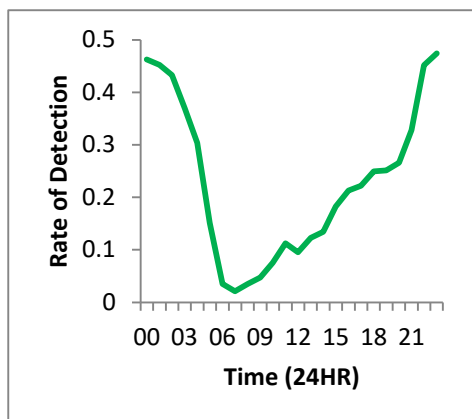
In 2017, 212 users signed up through the Call of the Wetland App and we had data submitted from 48 volunteers. We had an average of 8 visits to each wetland we wanted to systematically survey and learned lots of lessons along the way.

We based our survey methods on the provincial Sensitive Species Inventory Guidelines (ESRD 2013). Through the season we used these provincial methods, along with suggestions from our science partners Alberta Conservation Association and Calgary Zoo to diligently collect data. We did so through the app and with our quality control component, acoustic recording units. We wanted to use some of our data to accurately answer some a question you had about:



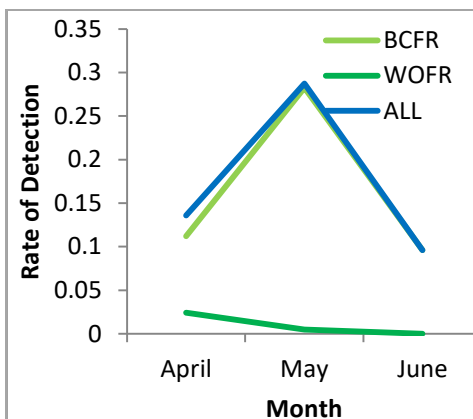
Finding Amphibians in Calgary

What time can I hear amphibians?



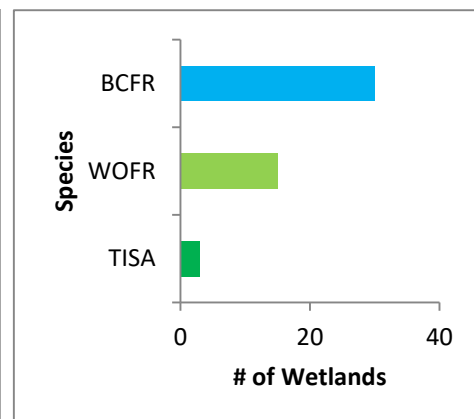
Call surveys in Alberta are recommended between ½ hour after sunset to 1am (ESRD 2013). Peak calling occurred in our recordings around 22:00-03:00 (10pm-3am).

What month will I hear amphibians?

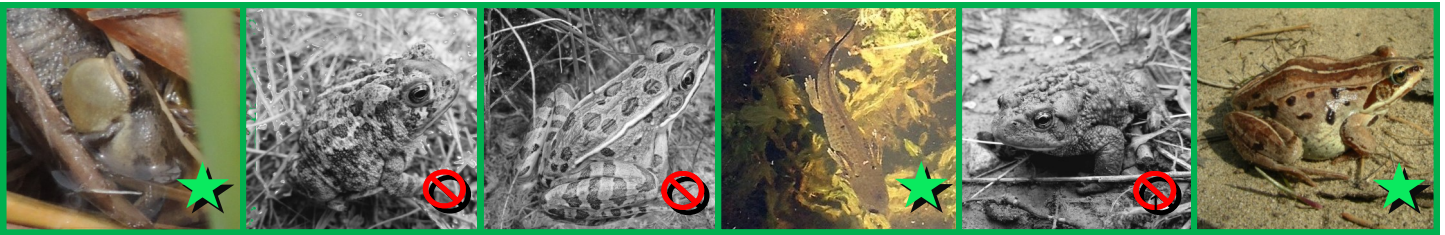


The species found in Calgary are expected to call between April 15-June 14 (ESRD 2013). The recording data shows peak chorus frog (BCFR) detections in may and peak Wood Frog (WOFR) detections in April.

What did we find?



Chorus frog (BCFR), Wood Frog (WOFR), and Tiger Salamander (TISA) were observed by volunteers and recorded at a number of wetlands.



How did we do?



What's next?

We will continue to run the program into 2018 and 2019. We learned that some error in amphibian observation is user error but our biggest troubles came from covering all the survey time periods. Next year we want to gather better data by starting acoustic monitoring earlier, having better volunteer coverage of April surveys and providing better orientation materials. We have plans for website and app upgrades this winter that will address the excellent feedback we got this year. If you have any recommendations, personal stories, or photos from the season please share them (info@callofthewetland.ca).

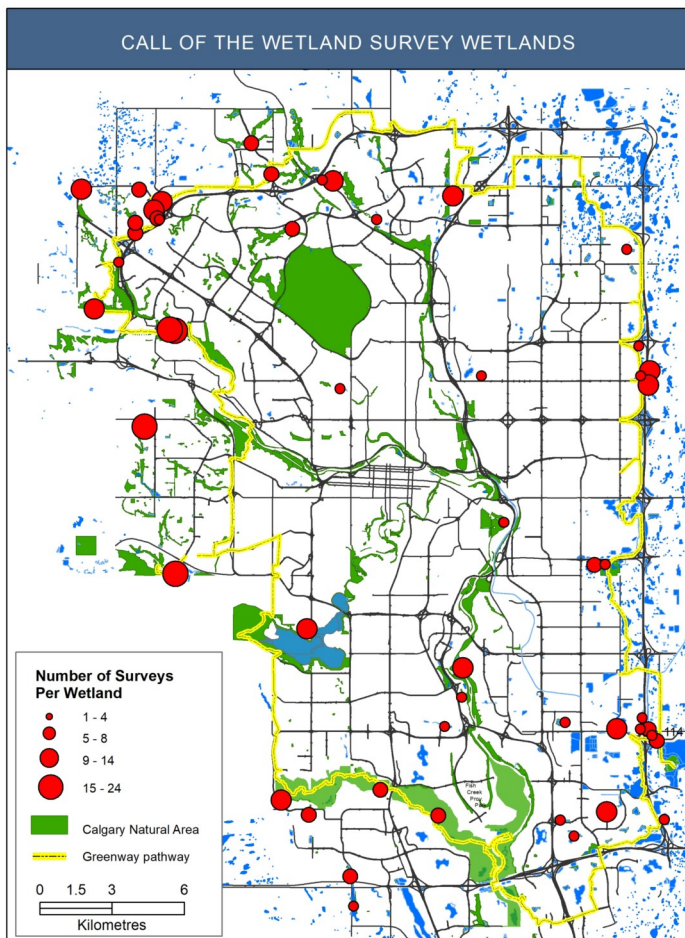
We recorded 3 of 6 species we expected to see, including chorus frog, tiger salamander, and wood frog. We have an unconfirmed audition of a western toad we hope to investigate next season. Amphibians were observed at 31 of 52 survey locations where we received survey permits for 2017. Volunteer reports agreed with our acoustic data 90% of the time (calculated as correct classification rate). We also received many incidental observations through our notes section. Eg. Horned grebes, minnows and muskrats.



This map shows the popularity of some of our wetlands, with larger dots showing wetlands that were visited more often. We would love to have all big dots next year.

If you enjoyed the program, please come back and bring some friends! Please consider joining us in April for an early season survey, it will really help improve our data collection. Until next season thank you for all of your hard work and **happy hibernation**.

We are extremely grateful for the support and partnership of:



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