2010 FrogWatch USA Season Winding Down

The end of August marks the unofficial close to the 2010 FrogWatch USA season. Frogs are calling much less frequently in most regions of the country and many of you have been reporting that you are not hearing any calls at all. Peak amphibian breeding occurs in the spring, and while some frogs may continue calling year-round, this is typically a subset of the larger number of species located in an area. Those of you who are still hearing calls are most likely hearing American bullfrogs, green frogs, American toads, and gray treefrogs.

Thank you for all your dedication to this program, enjoy the fall, and keep practicing those calls for next spring!

Remember to submit your data sheets by sending them to: *frogwatch@aza.org*
Or via U.S. mail to:
FrogWatch USA Coordinator
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Thank You to Both New and Established FrogWatch USA Chapters

AZA would like to thank all FrogWatch USA Chapters for their hard work and dedication in 2010. It is through the efforts of Chapters that FrogWatch USA can best train and provide on-going, local support to volunteers.

2010 Chapters
Birmingham Zoo, Birmingham, Ala.
Miami Metrozoo, Miami, Fla.
St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park, St. Augustine, Fla.
Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks, Columbia, Md.
Saint Louis Zoo, St. Louis, Mo.
North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, Kure Beach, NC
Jenkinson's Aquarium, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ
Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, RI
Chattanooga Zoo, Chattanooga, Tenn.
San Antonio Zoo, San Antonio, Texas
Oglebay's Good Zoo, Wheeling, W.Va.

New Chapters in Development

Throughout the fall, AZA will be offering Chapter Coordinator Training opportunities, with the first to be offered at AZA's Annual Conference, on Monday, September 13, in Houston, Texas. Keep checking the Web page (*www.aza.org/host-a-frogwatch-chapter/*) to learn about other training opportunities and to learn more about becoming a Chapter.

Featured Species– American Bullfrog (*Lithobates (Rana) catesbeianus*)

The bullfrog is the largest frog in North America, and can weigh up to one pound. The bullfrog's color ranges from a dark green to yellow on its back, with mottled dark gray spots. The underside of the bullfrog is white and sometimes mottled with gray splotches. The easiest way to tell them apart from the green frog (*Lithobates (Rana) clamitans*) is that the bullfrog does not have a dorsolateral ridge—the fold of skin that runs from each eye down the back. The bullfrog can be found throughout its native range of the eastern and central United States, but has also been introduced to many parts of the western United States, both as a food source and inadvertently during fish stockings. In the absence of natural predators and due to its large size, it now poses a significant threat to smaller, native frogs. The preferred habitat for bullfrogs are permanent bodies of waters (ponds, lakes, and slow moving rivers) with sufficient

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vegetation to provide cover. This species is nocturnal and breeds May to July in northern parts of its range and February to October in southern parts of its range. The mating call sounds like it is saying "jug-o-rum."

What Are Fellow Volunteers Hearing?

Thanks to all of you who have submitted your summer data! In June and July, volunteers submitted observations from over 450 monitoring sessions!

The most frequently reported species were green frogs, followed by American bullfrogs and gray treefrogs. Sixty-one visits resulted in no species being heard.

2008-2009 Data Summary Available

A summary of 2008-2009 FrogWatch USA observations is available at: *www.aza.org/frogwatch/.*

A Special Thanks...

In addition to volunteer observers and Chapter Coordinators, AZA has greatly benefited from the volunteer efforts of three other people. Our sincere thanks go to Mandy Gaudreau for writing the season's newsletters; to Rebecca Greenberg for data entry; and Rachel Rees for data entry, the development of database queries, and data analysis.