

Eastern Tiger Salamander

Eastern Tiger Salamander - *State Endangered Species* - Pl.23
(*Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum*)

Identification: 6" - 13 3/8". The Eastern Tiger Salamander is the largest salamander in New Jersey. The ground color is dull black to dark brown; the underside is blotchy olive-yellow. Yellow to olive spots on a dull, dark background makes this species easily confused with the Spotted Salamander. However, the yellow spots on an Eastern Tiger Salamander are not perfectly round and typically produce more of a barring effect than a spotted one. Spots also extend further down the sides than in the Spotted Salamander. These species also differ in the ground color on the underside: gray in the Spotted Salamander, versus blotchy olive-yellow in the Eastern Tiger Salamander.

Where to find them: Breeds in January and February in early successional vernal pools or in pools in abandoned gravel pits. In June, the young metamorphose and move into the surrounding upland habitat.

When to find them: Adults are in their breeding ponds from late October to March. Subterranean for most of the remaining months.

Range: All of Southern Region.

Conservation Status: Habitat loss and pollution of breeding ponds has led to declines in Tiger Salamander populations in New Jersey. State listed as endangered in 1974, this species is still faced with the same threats that originally placed it on the list, but have benefited from certain active management strategies. For example, these salamanders have been found to utilize human-made pools as breeding ponds.

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State Endangered

Key Features

- Large, heavy-bodied salamander.
- Olive or yellowish brown spots of irregular shape and distribution extend along top and sides of body.



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Excerpt from: "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey"
Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>