

**News from the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas  
October 31, 2007**

## **The Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Project Publishes the First Vermont Amphibian Posters**

The Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Project has just printed two informational posters on the amphibians of Vermont. Amphibians Part 1 contains the frogs of Vermont and Amphibians Part 2 contains the salamanders of Vermont. Photographs of all Vermont amphibians are included on the posters along with our latest available (2005) distribution maps, identification information, and the basic natural history of each species. These posters reflect the most reliable and current information available on Vermont amphibians. Each color poster is approximately 23" by 16" and is printed on durable, glossy, heavyweight paper with non-fading inks. Posters cost \$9.43 each (\$10 with VT sales tax) with a \$3 shipping charge. In 2006, we printed two Vermont reptile posters and all four posters can be seen at the Atlas website <http://community.middlebury.edu/~herpatlas/index.html>. All proceeds from the sale of the posters will help fund the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas project.

The Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Project is an effort begun in 1994 by the Vermont reptile and Amphibian Scientific Advisory Group to the Endangered Species committee. The atlas project initially began as an effort to gather data for use by this volunteer advisory group in order to make informed recommendations regarding the appropriate status and conservation of reptiles and amphibians in Vermont. Since then, the goals have widened to incorporate public education, encourage citizen involvement, and promote conservation. The Atlas Project is coordinated by Jim Andrews, a research herpetologist at Middlebury College. The ultimate goal of the Atlas is to gather and disseminate data on reptiles and amphibians in Vermont in a way that involves and informs Vermont individuals and organization so that they will become more informed and effective stewards of wildlife habitat. Since the Atlas began in 1994, over 3,000 individuals, fifteen private organizations, and many government employees and agencies have provided over 60,000 records of local reptiles and amphibians. With the help of these volunteers and a few part-time staff members, the atlas continues to collect information and broaden our knowledge base regarding the natural history, distribution, and effective conservation of Vermont's reptiles and amphibians.

Any resident or visitor can contribute valuable distribution information simply by reporting what they saw, when they saw it, and where it was. Reports can be forwarded to us by mail, phone, or better yet, through the use of our online reporting system at our website <http://community.middlebury.edu/~herpatlas/index.html>. Photographs are particularly helpful but not necessary. With a good description, sketch, or photograph, they can figure out what species you have observed and enter it into their database. The data help them generate accurate maps of the in-state distribution of our native herptofauna.

Maps at their website show clearly the towns and species most in need of additional survey work. Some of the towns most in need of additional reports include Lunenburg, Lyndon, Andover, Baltimore, Burke, Danville, Granby, Irasburg, Rutland, Cabot, Derby, Elmore, Warner's grant, Avery's Gore, and Pittsfield. Cities most in need of additional survey include St. Albans, Barre, Newport, and Vergennes. Species most in need of additional reports include all reptiles but particularly snakes other than Gartersnake and all turtles. However, gaps exist in the distribution maps for even some common species and in some towns that have been surveyed more thoroughly.

Additional information on the posters, how to contribute to the survey effort, and resources on identification and natural history of these species groups can be found at their website <http://community.middlebury.edu/~herpatlas/>

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