



Wildlife Division

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

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www.ct.gov/dep

Part 1: Wetland Wildlife Values



Rec'd
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Characteristics of a Vernal Pool



- Vernal pools are a Palustrine forested wetland subclass and they contain water for at least two months during the year
- Dries out during most years, usually by late summer
- Occurs within a confined basin; no permanent outlet stream
- Lacks a fish population
- Provides critical breeding habitat for amphibians

*Note: **Vernal pools** are considered **a wetland** in the USF&W wetland classification system, however, they are defined as **a watercourse** in Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act*

Ask yourself: Is this a vernal pool?



Fall



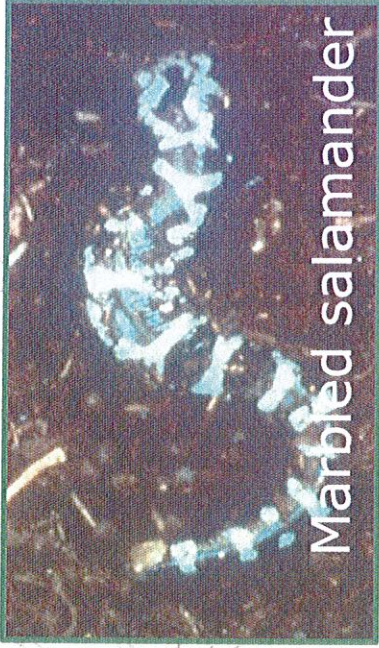
Spring

*Vernal pools can be difficult to identify in the field because of their ephemeral nature. Look for evidence of them in topographic depressions: leaves stained grey, or dark waterlines on trees. Both of these images are the **same** vernal pool area.*



Vernal Pool: Species

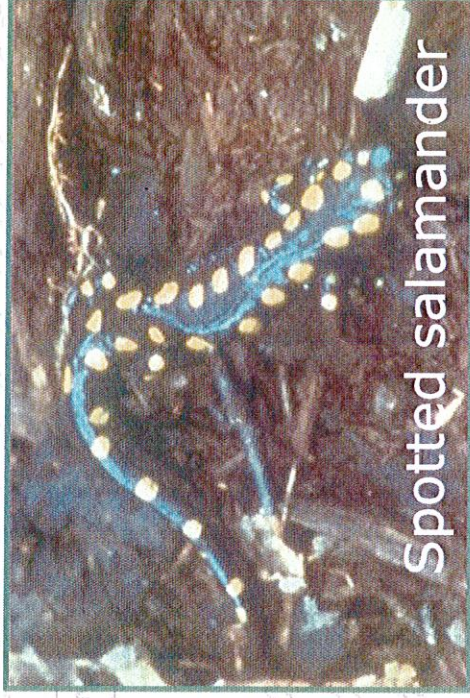
Certain amphibians such as the Spotted salamander, the Wood frog, the Marbled salamander, and the Wood frog require vernal pools for breeding.



Marbled salamander



Wood frog



Spotted salamander