

2020

## The Mystery of the Frog Eggs

Greta L.

*Vassalboro Community School, Vassalboro, ME*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://findings.gmri.org/journal>

---

### Recommended Citation

L., Greta (2020) "The Mystery of the Frog Eggs," *Findings from the Field*: Vol. 3 , Article 31.

Available at: <https://findings.gmri.org/journal/vol3/iss1/31>

This Nature Notes is brought to you for free and open access by Findings from the Field. It has been accepted for inclusion in Findings from the Field by an authorized editor of Findings from the Field.

## The Mystery of the Frog Eggs

05/07/20 Vassalboro, ME

By Greta L

From the end of April to the beginning of May, I observed a set of wood frog, *Lithobates sylvaticus*, eggs, and I checked back on them every day. I was very excited to see that some animal was finally making its home in the pond. The pond was the perfect place for a frog to lay its eggs, with water all around, plants to hide in, and overall a very safe place to live. Or so I thought. On the seventh of May, I went out to look at the eggs. It was a sunny day, and the trees were rustling above my head. I looked out into the water, and all the eggs had disappeared, and all that was left was the clear lining that covered the eggs. I did some research on a website called animaldiversity.org and found out Wood Frog eggs normally take between 9 and 30 days to hatch. I first noticed the eggs on April 20th, so my observations were in that time period, and they could have hatched out already. One thing that was interesting to me, however, was that in the past two and a half weeks that I observed them, the eggs had not changed one bit. Towards the end of development in wood frog eggs, you are able to see through the clear lining and see the small tadpole moving. What I saw on the days before the eggs vanished was exactly what I saw the first day, after 17 days. So, what had happened to them? Either they had died, or they had been eaten, and I found it hard to believe that they had died and completely vanished in one day. The eggs of Wood Frogs have a few predators including eastern newts, leeches, and types of aquatic insects. My yard and woods have an abundant eastern redback salamander, *Plethodon cinereus*, population, and I have observed the colonies of small water bugs. At this moment, I believe that these various species ate the eggs, but there are many things that could have happened. This is very interesting, and I can continue to observe these waters over this year and others to find out if the pond will ever be home to any little tadpoles, but I believe I will never know what happened to these particular eggs. That is why nature is so fascinating; there is always an element of mystery.

