

# Findings from the Field

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Volume 4

Article 11

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2021

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Emmy G

North Hampton school, esgranger1@gmail.com

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### Recommended Citation

G, Emmy (2021) "Many Frog eggs," *Findings from the Field*: Vol. 4 , Article 11.

Available at: <https://findings.gmri.org/journal/vol4/iss1/11>

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# Many Frog Eggs

By Emmy G

Behind North Hampton school in North Hampton, New Hampshire these observations took place.

Frog eggs are important for our ecosystem because if the frogs did not reproduce the population would not continue to grow. When I went down to the vernal pool on the North Hampton School nature trail I saw clumps of frog eggs. This arose a question I had which was; Were all of these frog eggs from the same frog? From researching I found out that a green frog lays around 3,000 - 5,000 at a time (WildLife OFCT). These eggs look like little balls of slime all stuck together, and there were tons. So how do I know if they all came from the same frog?



On April 12, 2021, on the North Hampton School nature trail the vernal pool had a bunch of frog eggs in it along with a couple of frogs. I saw that the eggs had some sort of slimy texture on the outside and the inside was a little brown ball. After researching I found out the slimy texture is actually called the jelly and the jelly actually makes sure that at least some of the eggs are fertilized and so they stick together. (Biology Libretexts). The frog eggs were scattered across the vernal pool in clumps. Some of these clumps had about 100 or more eggs in it and some less so.

On April 14, 2021, at the same vernal pool on the North Hampton School nature trail, I saw tadpoles. Next to the tadpoles there were still a bunch of frog eggs that had not hatched yet. I am assuming that since some of the eggs have hatched that not all the eggs came from the same frog. In ratio there were more frog eggs than tadpoles. Besides the tadpoles still nothing had changed since April 12.

In conclusion, I still don't really have an answer to my question, but one thing I could say is since a frog can lay 3,000-5,000 eggs at a time the way we could tell if all the eggs came from one frog is if they hatched at the same time as well. Though since we did see tadpoles in the vernal pool next to unhatched eggs, we could assume that the eggs did not come from the same frog.

## Work Cited

<https://naturegroupie.org/>

<http://wildlifeofct.com/green%20frog.html#:~:text=The%20female%20frogs%20produce%20about,eggs%20hatch%20into%20greenish%20tadpoles.>