

# Spotting the ETA?

The annual march of the spotted salamander from winter slumber to mass migration into a vernal pool is a unique event to behold. Looking at historical weather data can help estimate when the spotted were on the move. There are some key factors that repeat from year to year that bring the spotted out of their burrows for a brief mating season. Look for the following:

- A warming trend above 60 °F
- A measureable rain event after the warming trend

Take the salamander icon and trace the warming trend on the calendar and then stop on the date you think they emerged for migration.

28 Rain Actual: 44°   35° 0 in	1 Mostly Cloudy Actual: 48°   37° 0 in	2 Rain Actual: 42°   32° 0.01 in	3 Rain Actual: 42°   35° 0 in	4 Clear Actual: 48°   33° 0 in	5 Partly Cloudy Actual: 51°   28° 0 in	6 Clear Actual: 55°   19° 0 in
7 Clear Actual: 59°   30° 0 in	8 Clear Actual: 60°   30° 0 in	9 Clear Actual: 66°   26° 0 in	10 Mostly Sunny Actual: 66°   46° 0 in	11 Rain Actual: 69°   51° 0 in	12 Rain Actual: 55°   51° 0.73 in	13 Rain Actual: 53°   46° 0.65 in
14 Thunderstorms Actual: 50°   46° 0.56 in	15 Rain Actual: 50°   46° 0.03 in	16 Partly Cloudy Actual: 64°   44° 0 in	17 Clear Actual: 69°   28° 0 in	18 Clear Actual: 73°   30° 0 in	19 Clear Actual: 73°   33° 0 in	20 Clear Actual: 77°   42° 0 in
21 Clear Actual: 75°   37° 0 in	22 Thunderstorms Actual: 64°   57° 0.38 in	23 Thunderstorms Actual: 53°   44° 0 in	24 Clear Actual: 66°   46° 0 in	25 Mostly Sunny Actual: 73°   35° 0 in	26 Rain Actual: 53°   39° 0.18 in	27 Clear Actual: 51°   33° 0 in
28 Rain Actual: 55°   39° 0.17 in	29 Rain Actual: 60°   48° 0.02 in	30 Rain Actual: 55°   42° 0.02 in	31 Mostly Sunny Actual: 73°   48° 0 in	1 Clear Actual: 78°   37° 0 in	2 Clear Actual: 82°   41° 0 in	3

The calendar above shows data from March 2010 in the Frederick Municipal Forest in Frederick County, MD. Calendar from Weather Underground, wunderground.com

## Searching Historical Weather Data

The website Weather Underground (wunderground.com) provides an easy means for searching historical weather data. Here are the simple steps for sleuthing spotted migration:

1. Go to wunderground.com
2. In the Search Locations box at the top, put in the name of your town/city
3. Once you have found your location the current weather is displayed under the tab "Today"
4. Click on the Calendar Tab
5. A monthly calendar will appear with the weather forecast by date
6. Click on the month and year you want to search and click View
7. A calendar with historical data will appear.
8. Start estimating the spotted migration....