

AMPHIBIAN MIGRATIONS & ROAD CROSSINGS PROJECT

Instructions for Online Data Entry



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Hudson River
Estuary Program



Cornell University

Thank you for volunteering with the Amphibian Migrations and Road Crossings (AM&RC) Project! This document provides step-by-step instructions for using the Survey123 online data entry form, available on the project [web page](#). Steps and instructions are outlined in **magenta**. Asterisks (*) indicate required questions.

Important reminders before you start:

- Print a [paper data form](#) to use during the migration.
- Survey123 functions best when using the **most current version** of Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Edge.
- **Before you start entering data**, make sure you are connected to WiFi or have a good 4G connection. (This will help to prevent problems during online data entry due to internet connectivity issues.)
- **While entering data**, click the “**Next**” button at the bottom of each page to advance through the form. You can click the “**Back**” button at any time if you need to make a change (it will not ruin any progress you have made!).

Time to get started! Click on the survey link [here](#). You will be on the first page of the survey. Read through carefully and click the **Next** button.

Thank you for using the Amphibian Migrations & Road Crossings online data form. For instructions or more information about the project, visit our [website](#).

If you upload any photos during data entry, you acknowledge that we have your permission to use them in program materials (with proper attribution to you, of course!).

Note: This project is focused on the Hudson River estuary watershed, from the Capital District to NYC. If you've documented a migration outside of the Hudson Valley, you can enter your data and we'll do our best to share with colleagues working in your area. 🐸



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Page 1 of 15

Date & Time Information

- The first box under “When did you start surveying the road crossing?” has a calendar pop-up when clicked (#1 in graphic below) and a time pop-up (#2). Make sure the year is current and select the correct date and time.
- You will repeat this step for “When did you stop surveying the road crossing?” (#3).
- After you enter both date(s) and times, an estimated survey duration will appear for you to double-check that your date and times are correct (#4).

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023

Date & Time Information


When did you start surveying the road crossing?*

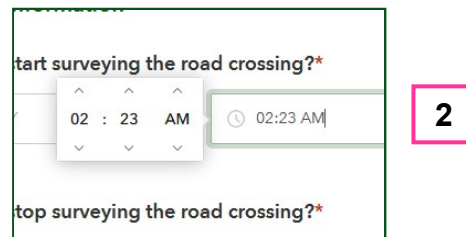
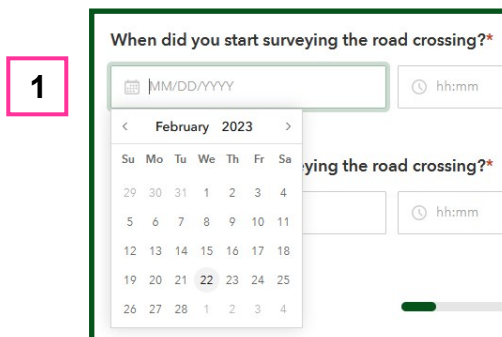
MM/DD/YYYY **1** hh:mm **2**

When did you stop surveying the road crossing?* **3**

MM/DD/YYYY hh:mm

Your estimated survey duration is: 3.7 hour(s). **4**

[Back](#) [Next](#)  Page 2 of 10



You have completed the **Date & Time** section! **Temperature** is next.

Temperature Information

Enter the Start (#1 in graphic below) and End (#2) temperatures in Fahrenheit. If your data are outside the normal range for the season, the green check mark will change to a yellow face (#3). This helps to ensure there are no mistakes. To finish, enter any comments you might have about the temperature (optional, #4).

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023

Temperature Information

Start temperature in Fahrenheit: *

(What was the air temperature when you started monitoring the road?)

End temperature in Fahrenheit: *

(What was the air temperature when you finished monitoring the road?)

Temperature Validation Key

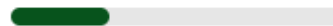
= everything looks OK

= data outside of typical survey conditions; please double-check your entry. You can still proceed if it is indeed correct!

If your temperature data were unusual, please explain here:

Note: these page numbers may be different, depending on the way you answer questions.

255



Page 3 of 10

You have completed the **Temperature** section! **Weather and Traffic** is next.

Weather Conditions and Traffic Information

A dropdown menu will appear when each box is clicked. Select your responses.

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023

Weather Conditions & Traffic Information

Precipitation conditions during your survey:*

Choose the most appropriate condition.

-Please select- **1** ▼

Did you observe any additional weather conditions during your survey?*

Choose any that apply.

-Please select- **2** ▼

If you observed no additional weather, select "none" from the dropdown.

Weather conditions in the past 24 hours:*

Choose all that apply.

-Please select- **3** ▼

Traffic conditions during your survey?*

Choose one.

-Please select- **4** ▼

Back

Next

Page 4 of 10

You have completed the **Weather and Traffic** section! **Crossing Information** is next.

Crossing Location Information

First choose the county where you surveyed. The town, village, and city options for that county will automatically appear below the county list (**scroll down** to view all municipalities in list).

Crossing Location Information

County:*

1

Albany

Town, Village, or City:

Leave blank if you're not sure. (Note: If you wish to remove your selection, simply click the selected town again. If you chose "Other" for county, skip this.)

2

-Please select-

Enter the remaining information.

Road name:*

3

Nearest crossroad:*

Forgot to look? Please check a map to find the nearest road that connects to your survey road.

4

Have you surveyed this road before?*

5

yes

no

6

Approximate length of road stretch you surveyed (in miles): *

Remember, 5280 feet = 1 mile and 1.6 km = 1 mile, if you need to make a conversion!

7

Additional comments on crossing location:

If you'd like to share additional information about the crossing location or survey length, please enter it below.

As before, if your data are outside the normal range (e.g. 100 miles), the green check mark will change to a yellow face. This helps to ensure there are no mistakes.

You have completed the **Crossing Information** section! **Specific Crossing Information** is next.

Specific Crossing Location

The next question requires you to *pinpoint the midpoint of the migration crossing location* on a map (#1 on graphic below). The default location is the center point of the county you selected earlier. You can type an address or location to get closer to your crossing location, or zoom out and select it visually. If you are using a mobile device, click on the map to expand the view. After you select your midpoint, you have the option to select start and end points (#2), or provide any comments (#3).

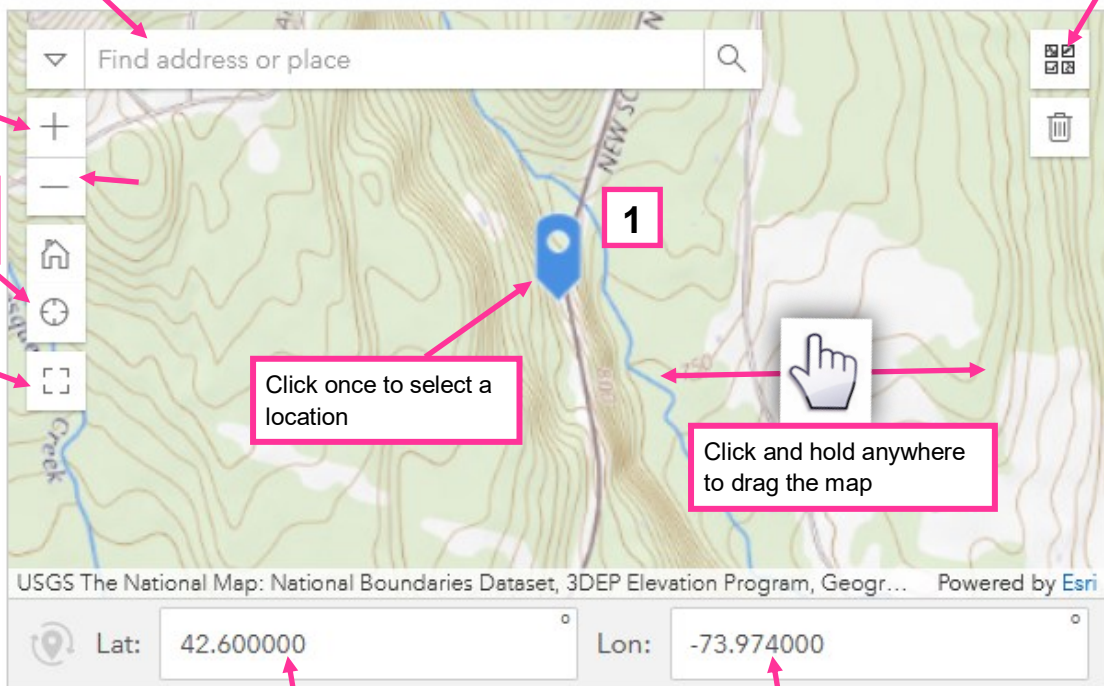
Enter address or location. Suggested locations will appear as you type.

You can choose basemap (imagery, topographic, etc.)

Zoom in and out with + or -

Zoom to your device's location

Expand map



Click once to select a location

Click and hold anywhere to drag the map

GPS coordinates will auto-fill based on the location you selected on the map. (The default location is the center of the county you selected.)

2

New: would you like to also select your start and end point?

Experimental new feature. Optional!

Selecting **Yes** makes two new maps appear.

3

Additional comments on crossing location:

If you'd like to share additional information about the crossing location you've selected on the map, please enter it below.

This question moves under the two new maps if you select **Yes** above.

Additional **Specific Crossing Information** on the next page.

Specific Crossing Location Information *Continued*

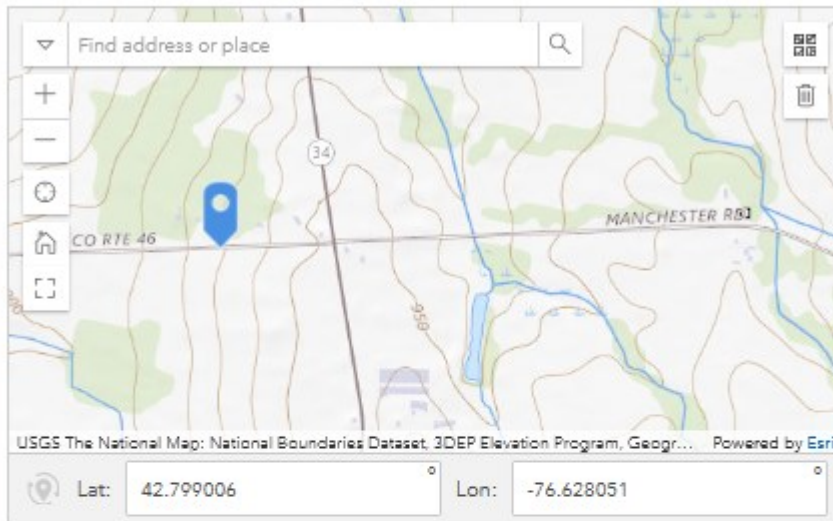
If you selected **Yes**, that you would like to enter the start and end points of your survey, two new maps will appear (#1 and #2 in graphic below) *before* the “Additional comments on crossing location” question. *If you selected no, you can skip to the next page.*

Survey Start and End Points ▼

Please select the starting point of your survey.

The default location is set to your selected midpoint. Note: Changing your midpoint above will reset this point.

1

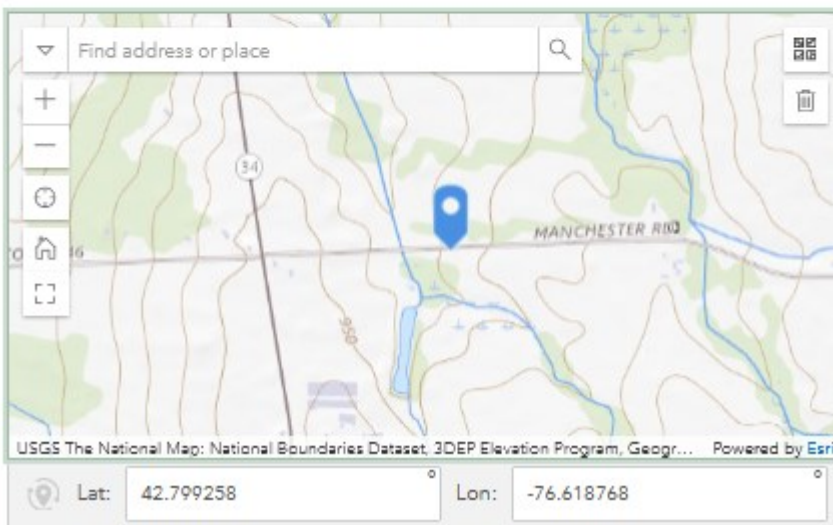


Map navigation is the same as for the previous map.

Please select the ending point of your survey.

The default location is set to start point. Note: Changing your starting or midpoint above will reset this point.

2



You have completed the **Specific Crossing Information** section! **Volunteer Information** is next.

Volunteer Information

Fill out the required information (this section should be very straightforward). If this is your first time submitting data for the 2023 season, you will be prompted to provide more information that will appear before the “Total volunteers in group” question.

If you selected **yes**, it's your first time (#1), you will be prompted to enter your first (#2) and last name (#3), AM&R volunteer ID (#4), phone number (#5), email (#6), mailing address (#7), the total number (#8) and names of any volunteers in your group (#9), whether or not you've attended any trainings (#10), and if you're participating with an AM&RC partner group (#11).

If you selected **no**, you will be prompted to enter your first (#2) and last name (#3), volunteer ID # (#4), email (#6), and the total number (#8) and names of any volunteers in your group (#9).

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023

The following contact information is for the volunteer entering the data (that means you!).

Is this your first time submitting data for the 2023 migration season?*

yes

no

First name:*

Last name:*

Your AM&RC volunteer ID:*

If you don't have an ID, enter 999 and we'll be in touch.

1

2

3

4

If you choose yes, questions 1-11 will show. If you have already submitted data through Survey123 for the 2023 migration, we will only ask you to fill out questions 2-4, 6, 8, and 9.

Additional **Volunteer Information** on the next page.

Volunteer Information *Continued*

Phone number:*

5

Email:*

6

Street Address:*

7

Town/city:*

7

State:*

7

Defaults to NY, but any state can be selected.

Zip Code:*

7

Total number of volunteers in group (including you):*

8

Names of other volunteers in your group:

9

If you volunteered with others, please list their first and last names and email addresses. Start a new line for each volunteer. (We use this information to follow-up with questions. If you're comfortable providing mailing addresses, as well, we'll be able to send project materials as needed.)

If you click yes, a list of training options will appear.

10

Have you attended an in-person or virtual AM&RC volunteer training, or watched the five training modules on YouTube?*

11

Are you volunteering with an AM&RC Partner?*

Partners: Columbia Land Conservancy, Climate Smart Rhinebeck, Averill Park Amphibian Project, Bedford Conservation Board, Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Pound Ridge Conservation Board, Red Hook and Saw Kill Watershed Community, Teatown Lake Reservation, Walkkill Valley Land Trust.

If you click yes, the list of partners will appear.

You have completed the **Volunteer Information** section! **Amphibian Information** is next.

Amphibian Information

Fill out the required information (this section should be very straightforward). If you select **yes** (#1) you'll be asked to provide specific information about the number and species you observed on the next page. If you select **no** (#2), the next page will be a summary of the data you entered so far.

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023

Amphibian Information

Did you see amphibians (live or dead) on the road you surveyed?*

1 yes

no

On the next page, you'll enter data for each species you observed. Although there are only eight species typically encountered during a migration, the lists on the following pages include all species that AM&RC volunteers have seen in the Hudson Valley.

Please refer to our [species identification guide](#) if you need help.

Page 8 of 13

This link will take you to the AM&RC Identification Guide so you can review species information.

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023

Amphibian Information

Did you see amphibians (live or dead) on the road you surveyed?*

yes

2 no

That's helpful to know! Negative data are also important and contribute to our understanding of migrations. Please proceed; you're almost done!

Page 8 of 10

Additional **Amphibian Information** on the next page.

Amphibian Information *Continued*

If you selected **yes** to the “Did you see amphibians” question, you will be asked to first enter data for any salamanders you observed. To make data entry easier, the different species are divided into three categories: Most Commonly Encountered (#1), Less Commonly Encountered (#2), and Unknown or Other Salamanders (#3). Click on a category to expand the options, or enter comments (#4). If you didn’t observe any salamanders, just click **Next** to skip to the Frog Data Entry

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023

Salamander Data Entry

Enter the number of live and dead salamanders you observed on the road. Don't be surprised if you leave many as "0" as not all species are commonly observed during late winter and early spring migrations!

Note: Click the group name or arrow to collapse or expand group lists.
Species are sorted from most to least commonly seen during migrations.
The default value is zero, so you can skip species you didn't observe.

1 Commonly Encountered Salamanders
(Spotted, Jefferson/Blue-spotted, Eastern Newt, Redback, Four-toed)

2 Less Commonly Encountered Salamanders
(All others: Northern Red, Two-Lined, Marbled, Slimy, Dusky, Spring)

3 Unknown or Other Salamanders
(Individuals that you couldn't identify or other species that are not listed here)

If you have comments about your salamander observations, write them here.

4

Back Next Page 9 of 13

These categories will expand when clicked so you can enter species information.

Additional **Amphibian Information** on the next page.

Amphibian Information *Continued*

Clicking on any of the three categories--Most Commonly Encountered, Less Commonly Encountered, or Unknown or Other Salamanders--will expand the group so you can enter species specific information. **Enter the numbers of amphibians you observed at that crossing location; leave the value as "0" if you did not see the species.**

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2024

Salamander Data Entry

Enter the number of live and dead salamanders you observed on the road. Don't be surprised if you leave many as "0" as not all species are commonly observed during late winter and early spring migrations!

Note: Click the group name or arrow to collapse or expand group lists. Species are sorted from most to least commonly seen during migrations. The default value is zero, so you can skip species you didn't observe.

1 Commonly Encountered Salamanders

(Spotted, Jefferson/Blue-spotted, Eastern Newt, Redback, Four-toed)

Spotted Salamander

Click [here](#) for photos and additional information (non-DEC)

live spotted:*

Enter the number of live salamanders you observed for each species. The default value for all species is 0.

3 # dead spotted:*

Enter the number of dead salamanders you observed for each species. The default value for all species is 0.

You can click each blue link to see example photos and additional information from sites like iNaturalist.

Jefferson/Blue-spotted Salamander

Click [here](#) for photos and additional information (non-DEC site).

Note: Distinguishing between the Jefferson Salamander and Blue-spotted Salamander is virtually impossible in the field (even if they look distinct, their genetics may not be). For this project, we'll consider all Blue-spotted and Jefferson salamanders to be a species complex.

live Jefferson/blue-spotted salamander *

Additional **Amphibian Information** on the next page.

Amphibian Information *Continued*

After you enter all your salamander data and click **Next**, you may receive additional questions about certain species that are commonly confused. In these cases, you will receive a prompt to upload a photo, if you took one, as well as additional identification information. When you upload a photo, the file will be automatically renamed based on the information you provided earlier.

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023

Commonly Confused Species Confirmation

Let's be sure you saw a Jefferson/Blue-spotted Salamander. Below are some identification tips to help confirm this observation. As a reminder, you can also refer to our [AM&RC species identification guide](#) if you need help, and additional identification tips are provided below.

If your original ID is incorrect, please go back and modify your response.

If you are uncertain about this ID, consider it an Unknown/Other Salamander.

If you still suspect a Jefferson/Blue-spotted Salamander, leave a comment and share a photo if you have one!

If you have a photo, you can upload it here.

Drop image here or select image

1

Additional Identification Information

Jefferson/Blue-spotted Salamander Complex

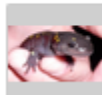
Less common. Brown to grayish black with minimal to extensive blue-silver *flecking*. This species complex is very variable in appearance depending on the genetic contribution of each "parent" species.

Jefferson/Blue-spotted Salamander Complex

Photo

Filename

File size



John_Vanek_unknowsally1_21Feb23_Columbia.jpg

16.9KB ...

Additional **Amphibian Information** on the next page.

Amphibian Information *Continued*

If you recorded any Other or Unknown Salamanders, you will be asked to provide general comments on the observations (#1) and offered the ability to upload additional photos (#2) and provide photo specific comments (#3). When you are done, click **Next**.

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023

Unknown or Other Salamanders: Photos and Comments

If you have comments on the "Unknown" or "Other" salamanders you found, especially if you don't have a photo, please write them here.

1

If you have any uncertainty about the identification of a live or dead salamander that you observed, you can upload photos here and we will try to make a determination. (It will help if you have photos at multiple angles.)

If you have more than five photos to upload, you can email them to woodlandpool@dec.ny.gov.

2 How many photos do you want to upload?*

3 Upload 1.

Photo

If you have comments or questions about this photo, write them in the space below.

3

Page 12 of 17

Photo prompts will appear after you select the number of photos you want to upload (default value is 0).

Additional **Amphibian Information** on the next page.

Amphibian Information *Continued*

After you are done entering your salamander data, the process will repeat for frogs/toads. As before, the different species are separated into categories for ease of data entry, and additional prompts will be provided for commonly confused species, as well as rare and unknown species.

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2024

Frogs/Toads Data Entry

Enter the number of live and dead frogs/toads you observed on the road. Don't be surprised if you leave many as "0" as not all species are commonly observed during late winter and early spring migrations!

Note: Click the group name or arrow to collapse or expand group lists. Species are sorted from most to least commonly seen during migrations. The default value is zero, so you can skip species you didn't observe.

Commonly Encountered Frogs/Toads

(Wood Frog, Spring Peeper, American Toad, Green Frog)

Less Commonly Encountered Frogs/Toads

(Pickerel Frog, Leopard Frog, Gray Treefrog, Bullfrog, Fowler's Toad)

These categories will expand when clicked so you can enter species information.

Pickerel Frog

Click [here](#) for photos and additional information (non-DEC site).

live pickerel frog:*

dead pickerel frog:*

Leopard Frog

The two Leopard Frog species can be difficult to distinguish and can also be confused with the Pickerel Frog. Note: The Northern Leopard Frog occurs in the northern Hudson Valley and

When you have entered all your frog/toad data, you are done with the **Amphibian Information** section! Next will be one more page with general information about the migration you observed, followed by a summary page.

Amphibian Crossing Information

Fill out the required information (this section should be very straightforward).

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023

You're an amphibian crossing guard!

Approximately how many live amphibians did you or your group help across the road?*

1

If you're able, please indicate the general compass direction the amphibians were moving.

2

We're also happy to receive any other interesting photos (amphibians or not) you observed during your suvey, or great pictures of volunteers (in safety gear) and amphibians! If you have more than five photos to send, you can email them to woodlandpool@dec.ny.gov.

How many photos do you want to upload?*

3

Photo prompts will appear after you select the number of photos you want to upload (default value is 0). The format will be the same as before.

Thanks again! On the next page, you'll see a summary of your data entry.

Page 15 of 17

You have completed the **Amphibian Crossing Information** section!
The next page is a summary of your data entry endeavor.

Summary

This page requires no input on your part unless you want to leave a comment (#1). You'll be presented with a summary of the data you entered to check for mistakes. Please review carefully! If everything looks OK, click **Next** to proceed to the final page where you can submit your data. This last "Submit" step is *critical*, as your data will not be submitted otherwise!

The information you entered earlier will be underlined.

This paragraph does some basic math on the data you entered.

Please confirm your contact information is correct.

If you need to make any changes, use the **Back** button to find the appropriate page. When you are done, navigate back to this page using the **Next** buttons.

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023

A Recap of Your Data Entry

1. You, Dave Attenborough, and 3 companion(s) started your survey at 20:41 on Wed Feb, 08, 2023 and ended at 22:58 on Wed Feb, 08, 2023. The starting temperature was 45°F and the ending temperature was 38°F.
2. The weather conditions included light rain and you noticed a traffic volume of ~0-3 car(s)/hour.
3. You surveyed ~2.2 mile(s) of Bacon Road in Dutchess County over 2.28 hour(s). The nearest crossroad is Broccoli Street, and you have not previously surveyed this road before.
4. You saw a total of 31 live salamanders and 28 live frogs/toads. Of those, you helped ~12 amphibian(s) across the road, which were generally moving southeast across the road. You also observed an additional 4 salamanders and 0 dead frogs/toads on the road.
5. Finally, to confirm, this is not your first time entering migration data this year. Your surveyer ID is 99 and your email address is Attenborough@bbc.com (please check spelling).

If you need to change anything, please navigate backward using the left arrows on the bottom. When you are done, navigate back to this page using the right arrow and proceed.

If you have any additional comments, please add them here.

1

255

Back Next

Page 13 of 14

This is a great place to describe any mistakes you were not able to correct.

You have completed your data entry for this crossing!
Click **Next** to progress to the final screen where you can submit your data.

Submit Page


Great! You have now completed entering your data. **Make sure to hit the “Submit” button!**

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023

Thank you!

The Amphibian Migrations & Road Crossings Project is part of a larger Hudson River Estuary Program and Cornell University effort to partner with local communities to conserve the diversity of plants, animals, and habitats that sustain the health and resiliency of the entire estuary watershed.

We greatly appreciate your participation and contribution to the project.




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Back Submit Page 17 of 17

Don't forget!
If you are submitting photos, you will see a progress bar. This may take a while depending on your internet connection. Please be patient!

And If you have more data to submit from a different road crossing survey, you can start a new data entry form here. Otherwise, you can close the page and get some sleep!

AM&RC Volunteer Data Form 2023



Thank you.
Your response was submitted successfully.

Press [here](#) to submit another response.

Thank you!

If you have any questions, contact us at woodlandpool@dec.ny.gov.