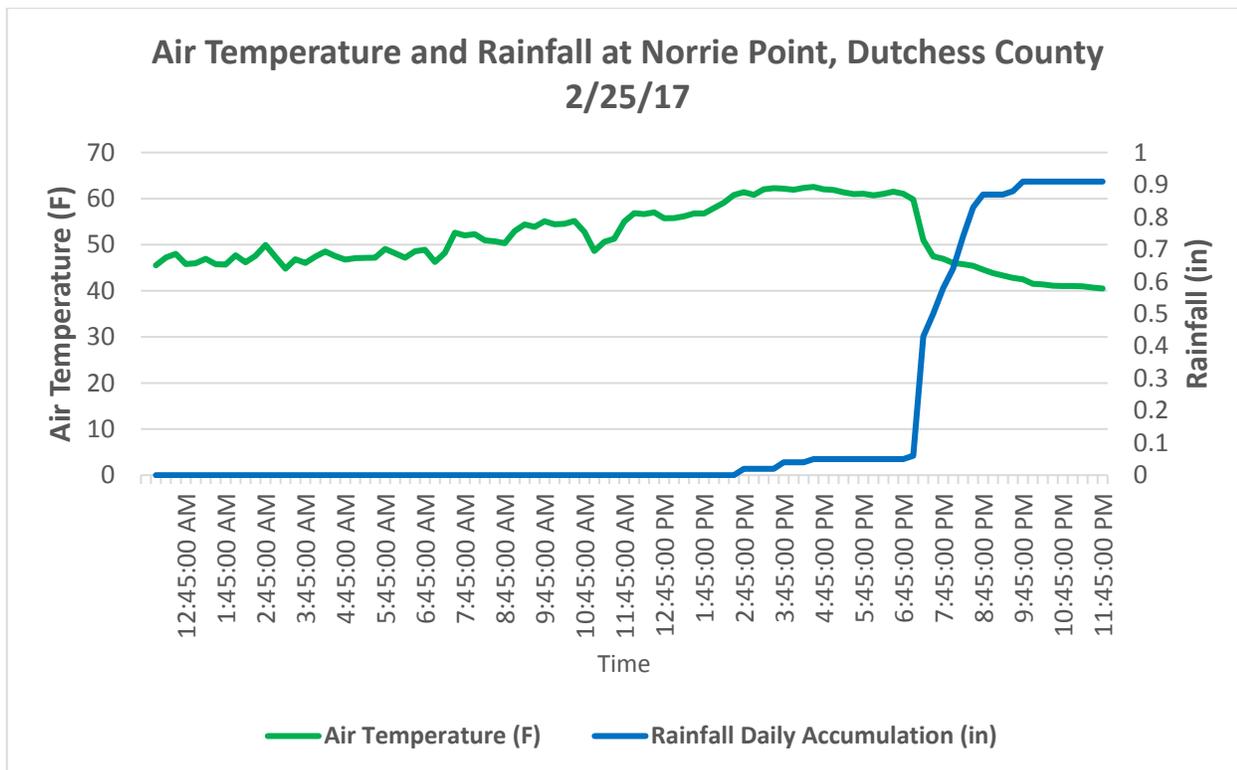


Amphibian Migrations and Road Crossings Project Update 28 Feb 2017

Preliminary reports from volunteers of the [Amphibian Migrations and Road Crossings Project](#) indicate there were small numbers of intrepid salamanders and frogs on the move on Saturday, February 25. That's almost two weeks earlier than the earliest date of migration activity recorded since the NYSDEC's Hudson River Estuary Program started the project in 2009. Migration activity was fairly low, which in addition to the early date, could be due to a number of factors including the later arrival of rain than originally forecasted, the sudden drop in temperature, and the severe thunderstorms that came through the region shortly after nightfall.



Data from the [Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observing System \(HRECOS\)](#) illustrates the sharp drop in air temperature at the time thunderstorms arrived with intense rainfall and winds in the mid-Hudson Valley.

At known crossing locations in Rhinebeck (Dutchess County), volunteers didn't see a single amphibian. Across the river in New Paltz (Ulster County), volunteers found several wood frogs and two spotted salamanders. The largest movement was observed further north in the Town of Catskill (Greene County), where a volunteer found eight four-toed salamanders on the move. Throughout the region, spring peepers were seen and heard, and a woodland pool in the Town of Somers (Westchester County) is reportedly already noisy with singing male wood frogs.

We'll be keeping our eyes on the weather forecast in anticipation of the next warm, rainy evening, when conditions (and timing) may be more suitable for a truly "big night" of amphibian migrations from forests to woodland pools for breeding. For more information, visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/51925.html>.



AM&RC volunteer holding a female wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*) observed during an early migration in New Paltz (Ulster County) on February 25, 2017. (Photo by Amy Bloomfield)



One of eight four-toed salamanders (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) observed crossing a road in the Town of Catskill on February 25, 2017. Photo by Kelly Mckean