

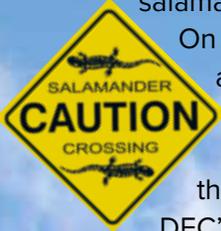
Many species of amphibians and reptiles are declining around the world due to spreading diseases, collecting for the pet trade, habitat loss, and climate change. Here are a couple of ways that you can help make a difference.

Amphibian Migrations and Road Crossings

In early spring, when the ground is thawed and temperatures start to warm, a special group of frogs and salamanders leave the forest on rainy nights and migrate to breeding wetlands called woodland pools.

On these journeys, they often need to cross roads that divide their habitat. When weather conditions are just right, there can be hundreds and thousands of frogs and salamanders crossing the roads.

Unfortunately, many will not make it, as they are hard to see and will often get run over. On these busy migration nights, volunteers in the Hudson Valley are surveying roads, documenting the migration, and helping amphibians safely across roads. To learn more about this program, visit DEC's website at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/51925.html.



Give Turtles “a Brake”

Each May and June, motorists should be on the alert for turtles crossing the road. Turtles are long-lived and well adapted to their natural environment, as they can retreat to the safety of their shell when threatened by predators. But the turtle's shell provides no protection against a major cause of mortality, being struck by vehicles while crossing roadways. Our native turtles are on the move in May and June seeking sandy areas or loose soil to lay their eggs. In New York, thousands of turtles are killed each year when they are struck by vehicles as they migrate to their nesting areas.

If you see a turtle on the road, try to have the driver avoid hitting them. If you see a turtle in the road and it is safe, you can try to move it to the side of the road, in the direction it was heading. Picking the turtle up by its tail may frighten or injure it.



Most turtles, other than snapping turtles, can be picked up by the sides of its shell. Snapping turtles can reach a long distance, and have a strong bite, so if you are trying to help a snapping turtle, pick her up at the rear of the shell near the tail using both hands, or slide a car mat under the turtle to drag her safely across the road. Never take turtles home - all turtles native to New York are protected by law and cannot be collected without a permit.

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Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Basil Seggos, Commissioner
Erica Ringewald, Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



DEC OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION SERVICES
Harold Evans, Director
Jeremy Taylor, Editor
Jennifer Peyser, Designer

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