

# Rouge River Watershed Frog and Toad Survey

Friends of the Rouge  
University of Michigan-Dearborn  
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[www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org)

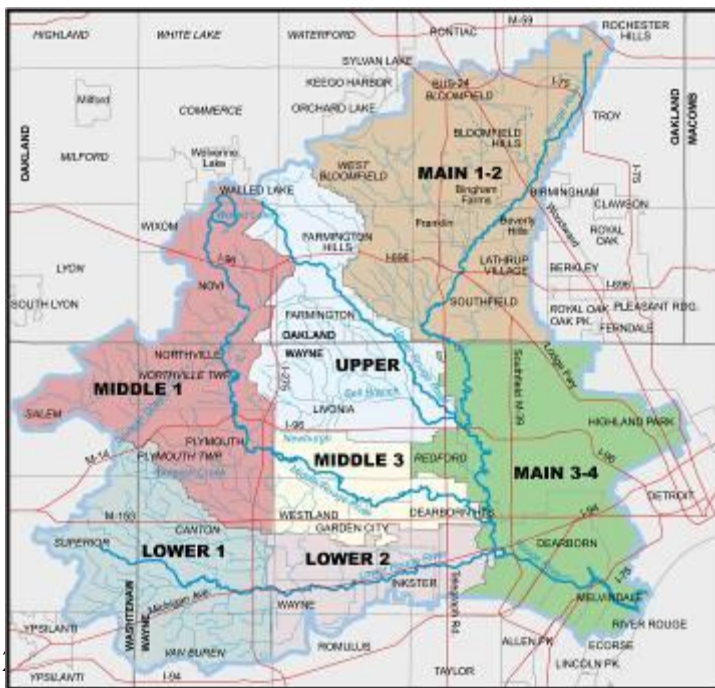
The Rouge River Watershed Frog and Toad Survey is a volunteer listening survey that has been coordinated by Friends of the Rouge since 1998. Volunteers are trained to recognize local frog and toad breeding calls and survey quarter-square-mile blocks within the Rouge River watershed from March through July. The purpose of the survey is to collect baseline data on the distribution of frogs and toads within the watershed as well as to give residents of an urbanizing area a positive experience with their local natural areas. The survey is supported by a grant from the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project and donations from Rouge communities and participants.



## Summary of Volunteer Effort

This was the thirteenth year of the Rouge River Watershed Frog and Toad Survey. There were 348 attendees at the four survey training workshops and 521 volunteers signed up to survey 400 blocks in 278 teams. We received data for 179 survey blocks (see Table 1 below).

**Figure 1: Rouge Subwatersheds**



**Table 1: Survey Blocks by Subwatershed**

Subwatershed	# blocks surveyed	average # species heard
Main 1-2	51	2.6
Upper	26	2.6
Middle 1	48	3.9
Lower 1	30	3.8
Lower 2	5	2.8
Middle 3	10	2.0
Main 3-4	8	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	

## 2010 Survey Results

In 2010, the subwatershed (Figure 1) with the highest average number of species heard was the Middle 1 with an average of 3.9 species calling per block. Middle 1 contains Salem Township, Northville, parts of Plymouth and Plymouth Township, south Walled Lake and Novi and is in the headwaters. A close second was the Lower 1 subwatershed with an average of 3.8 species per block. The Lower 1 contains Superior and Canton Townships, part of Plymouth, Romulus, and Van Buren. The subwatershed with the lowest average number of species heard was the Main 3-4 with only 1.4 species per block. The Main 3-4 is the most industrialized downstream portion of the Rouge River so this would be expected. It was very encouraging that three species were heard by

Ford Rouge plant in Dearborn in some recently created

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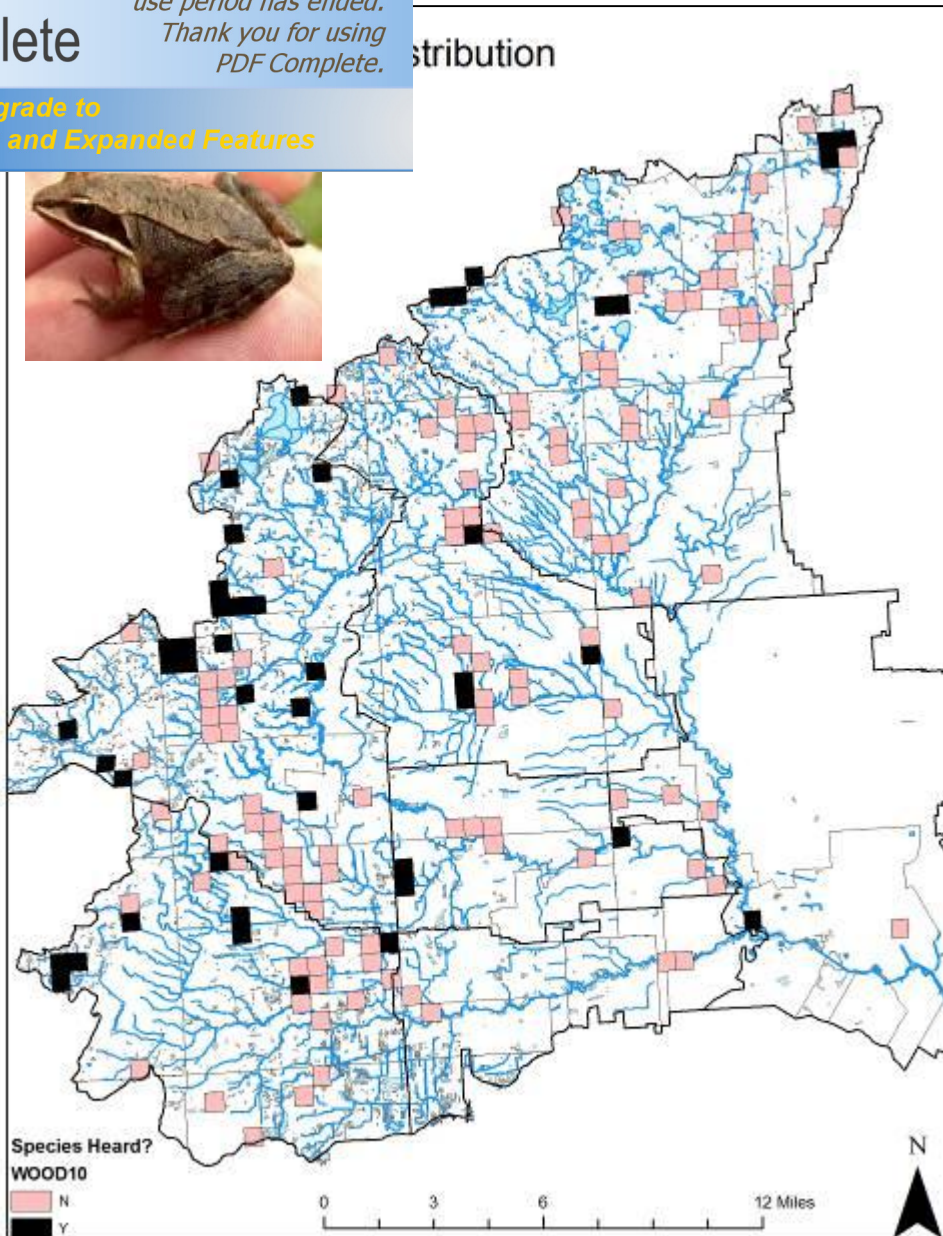
the watershed. All species except wood frogs were heard in a higher percentage of blocks than last year and wood frogs were heard in the same percentage of blocks as last year. Compared to average, western chorus frogs and spring peepers were heard in fewer blocks while wood frogs, American toads, northern leopard frogs, gray treefrogs, green frogs and bullfrogs were heard in a higher percentage of blocks than average.

**Table 2: Percent of blocks in which species was heard, 1998-2010**

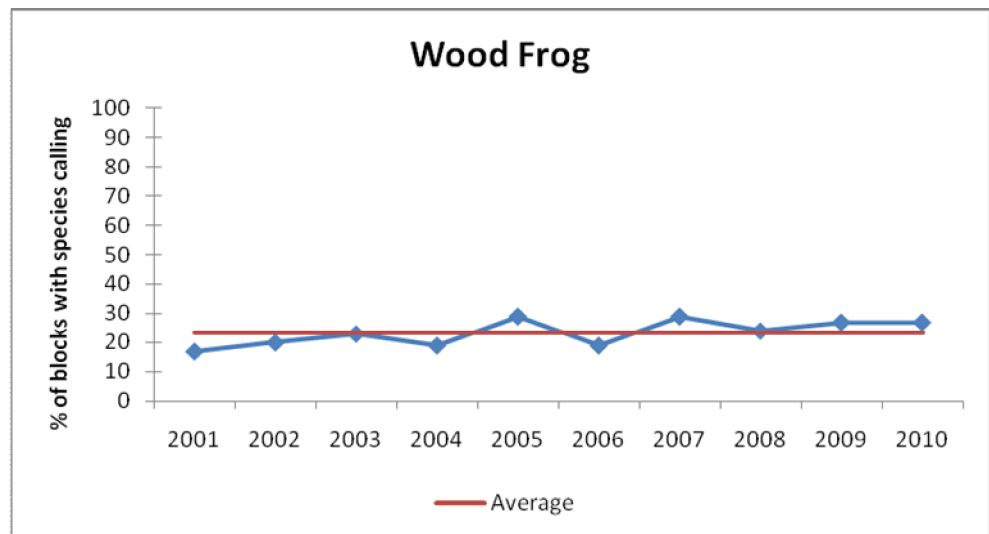
species	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999**	1998*	Average, 2001-10
Wood Frog	27	27	24	29	19	29	19	23	20	17	14	30	55	23
Western Chorus Frog	49	46	47	57	49	57	46	48	52	49	50	64	80	50
Spring Peeper	49	46	56	62	55	57	41	45	50	47	48	67	83	51
American Toad	88	84	89	87	78	74	61	62	71	58	49	50	54	74
Northern Leopard Frog	19	14	18	21	12	22	5	18	8	9	5	5		14
Gray Treefrog	62	48	53	64	48	57	37	40	35	37	47	40		47
Green Frog	72	68	74	70	70	64	51	53	39	38	15	30		59
Bullfrog	17	12	22	17	10	22	10	13	5	7	0	2		13

\*Only Middle 1 subwatershed surveyed

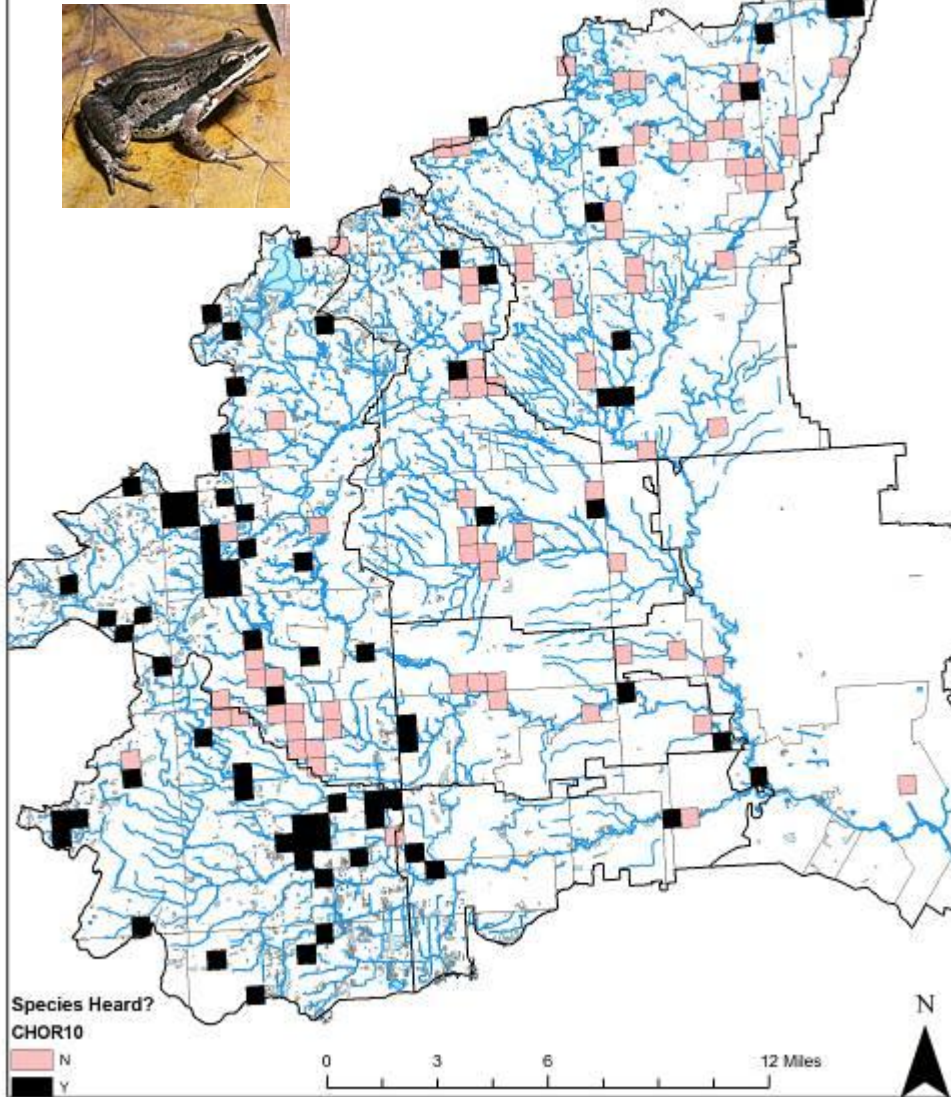
\*\*Only Middle 1 and Lower 1 subwatersheds surveyed



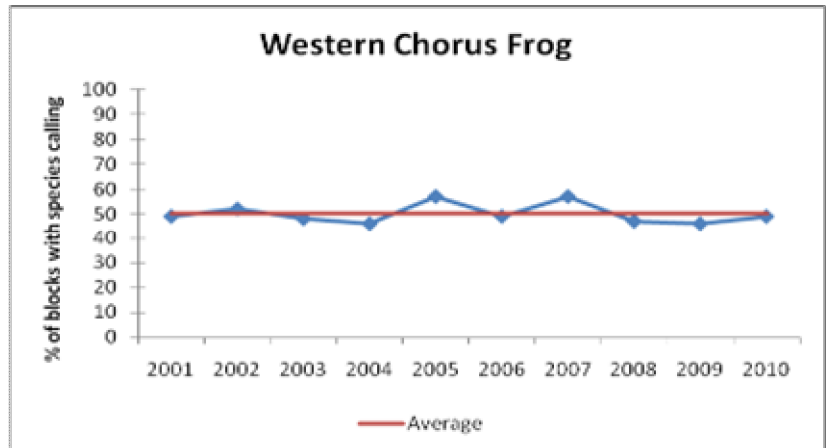
Wood Frogs were heard in 27% of all watershed blocks and all but the Middle 3 subwatersheds. The percentage of blocks with Wood Frogs calling was the same as last year and above average for what has been heard 2001-2010.

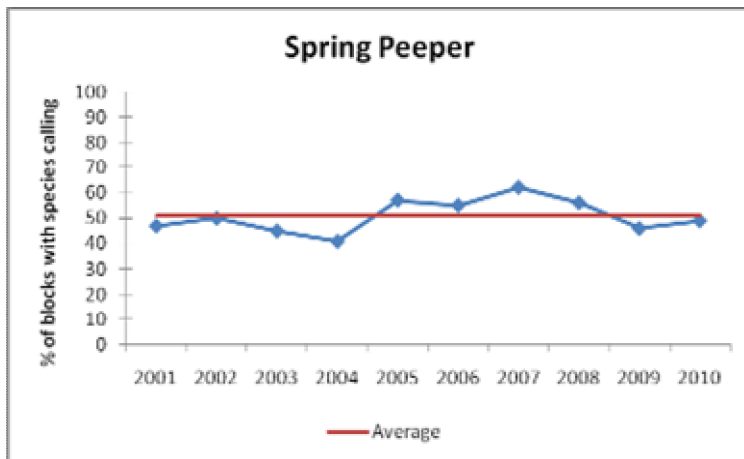
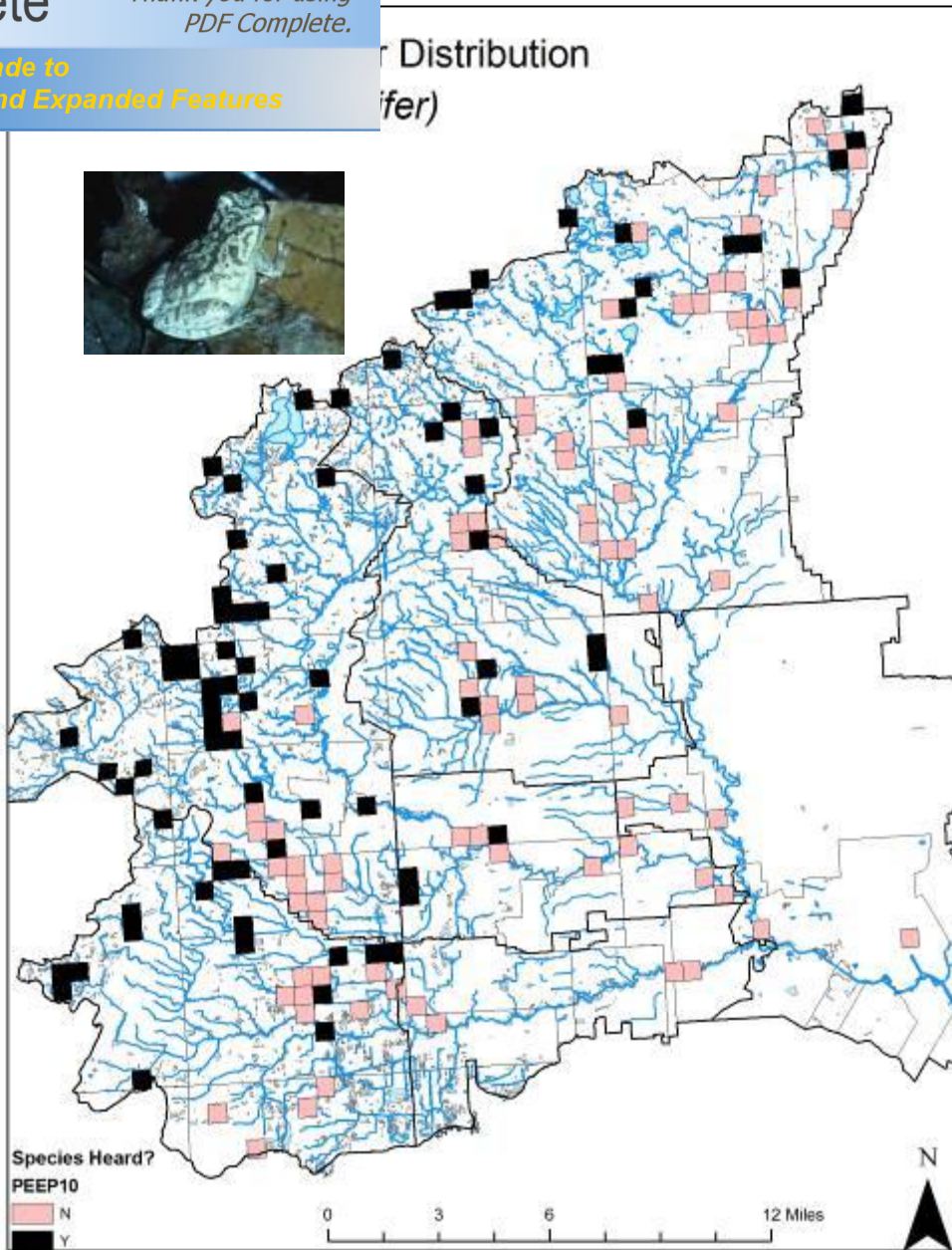


Distribution  
(Data)

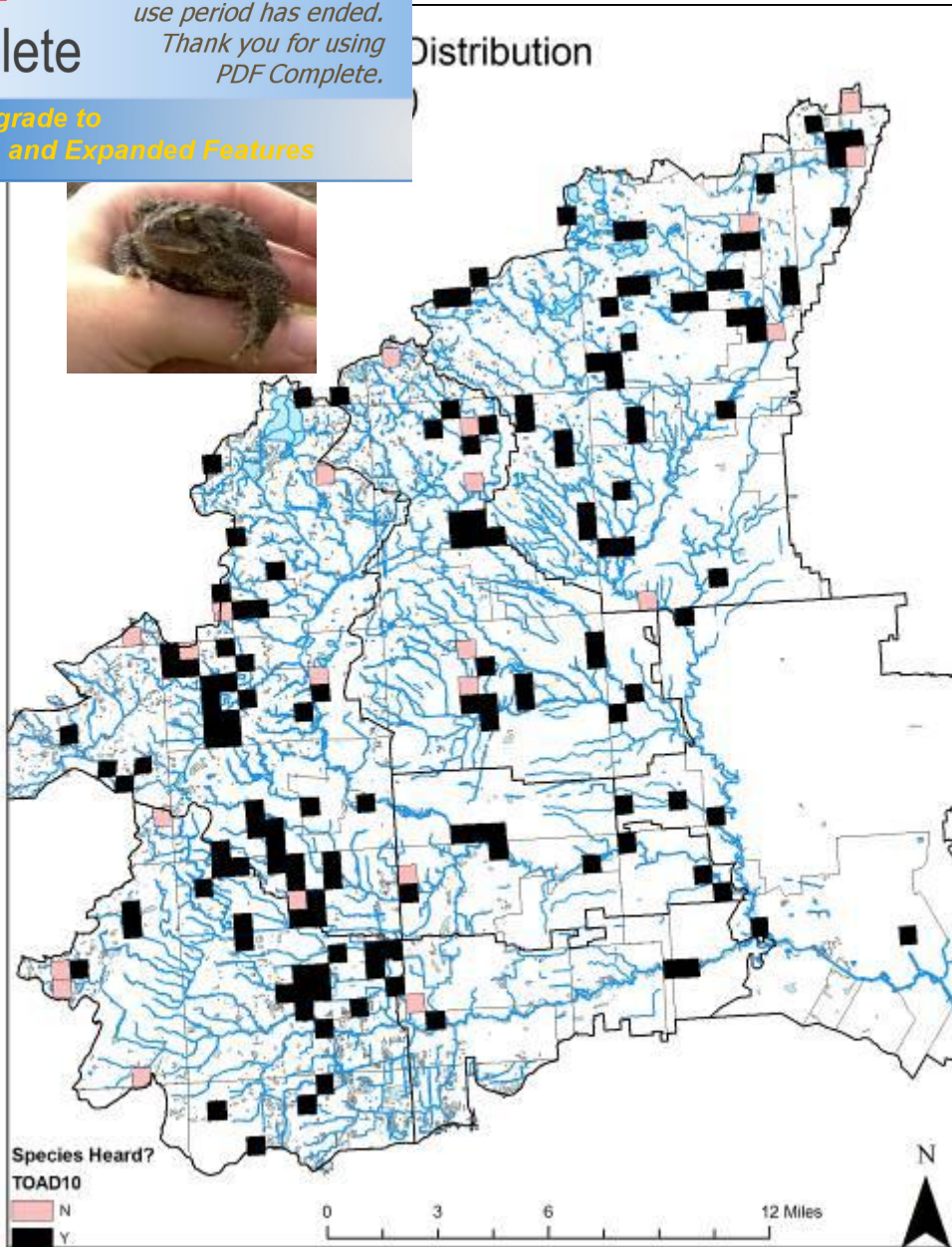


Western Chorus Frogs were heard in 49% of survey blocks and in all seven subwatersheds. In comparison to last year, there were more Chorus Frogs heard but less than the average.

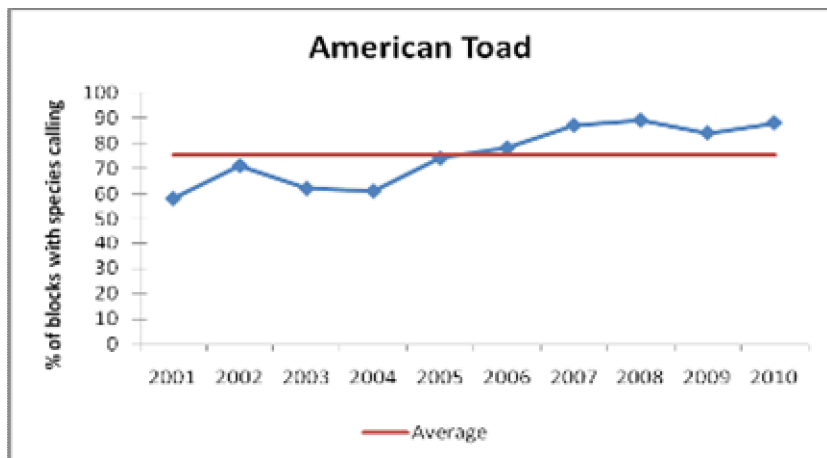




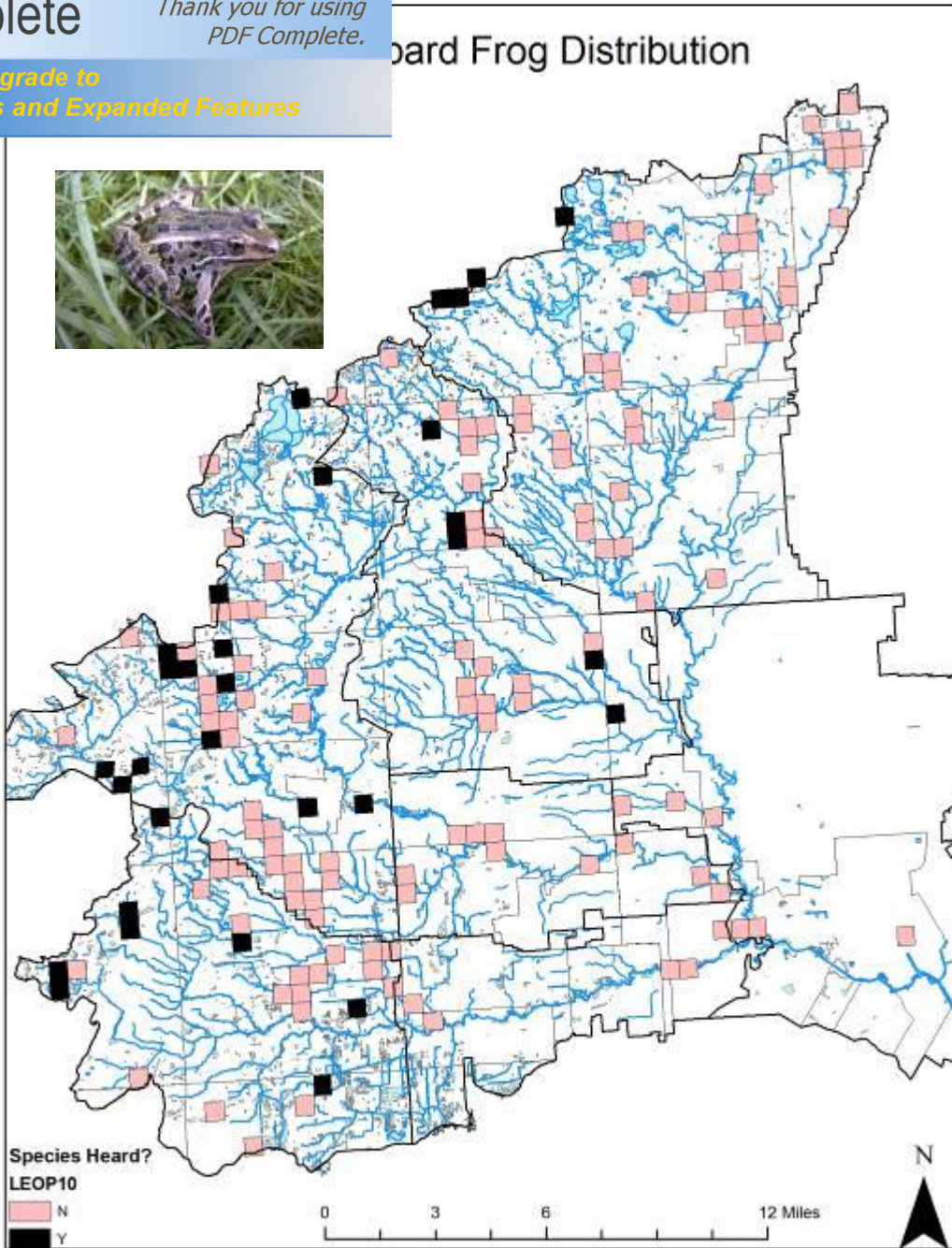
Spring Peepers were heard in 49% of survey blocks and in all but the Main 3/4 subwatershed. They were heard in more blocks than last year but less than average over time.



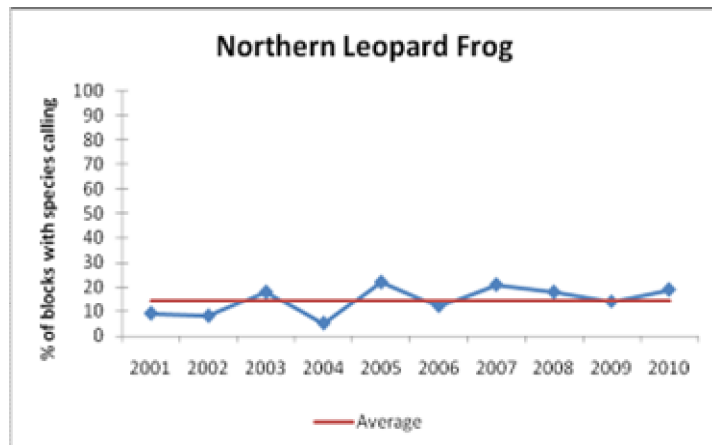
The American Toad was the most commonly heard frog or toad as it has been since 2001. Heard in 88% of all blocks, the American Toad was heard in a higher percentage of survey blocks than last year and more than average.



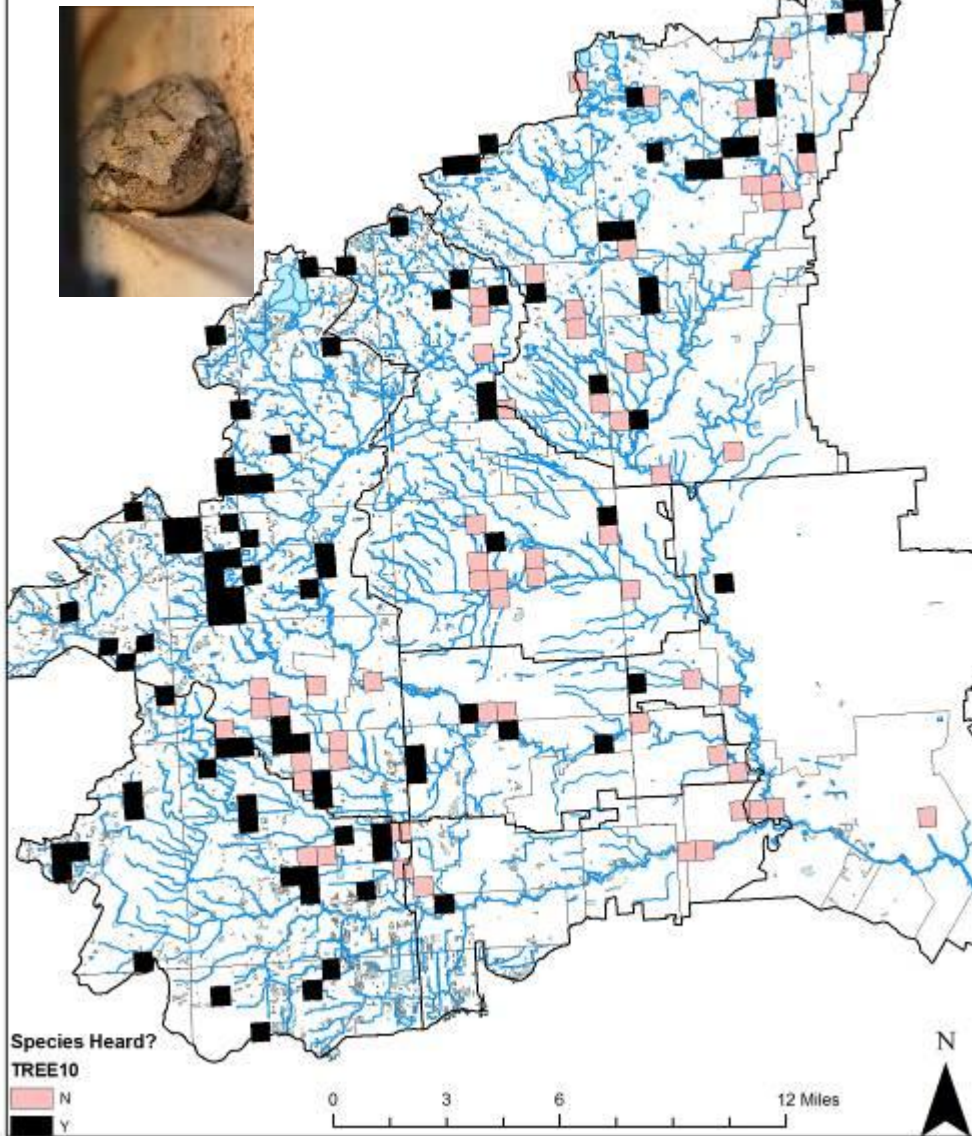
### Northern Leopard Frog Distribution



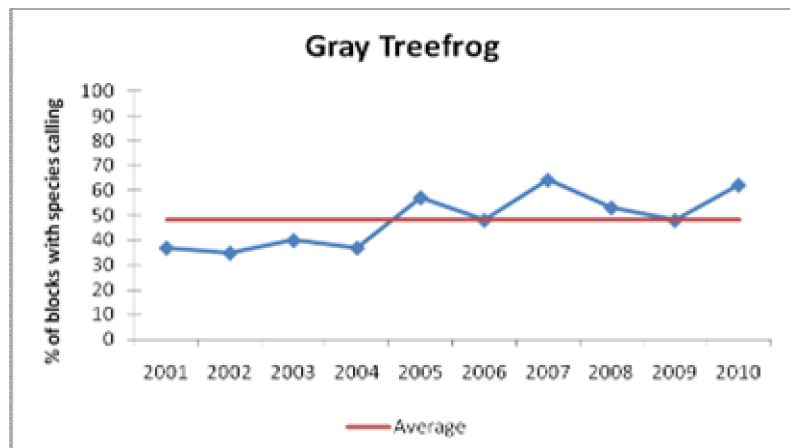
Northern Leopard Frogs, one of the most sensitive species in the watershed, were heard in 19% of the survey blocks this year. This is higher than last year and above average for the species. They were not heard in the Lower 2, Middle 3, or Main 3-4 subwatersheds.



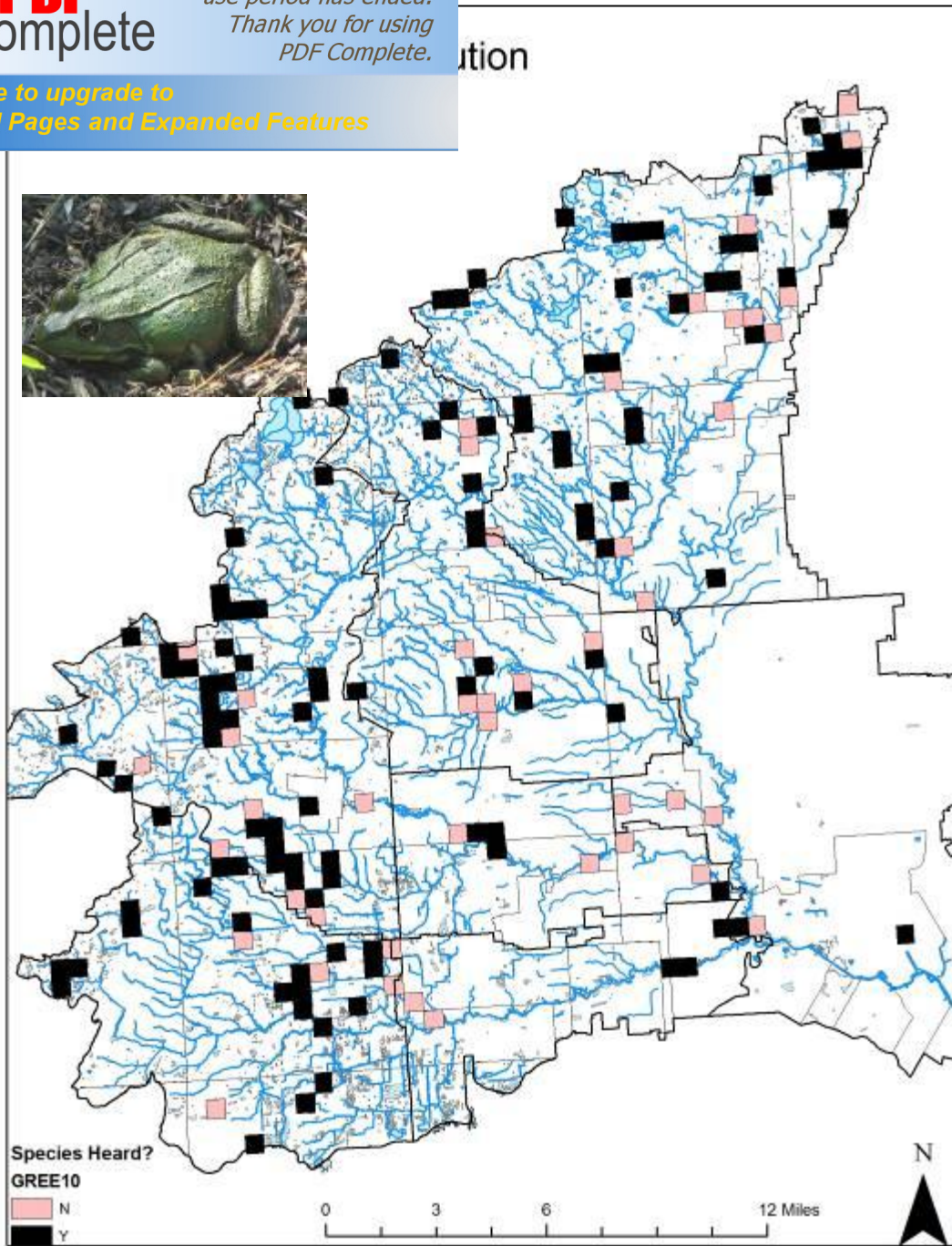
## Treefrog Distribution



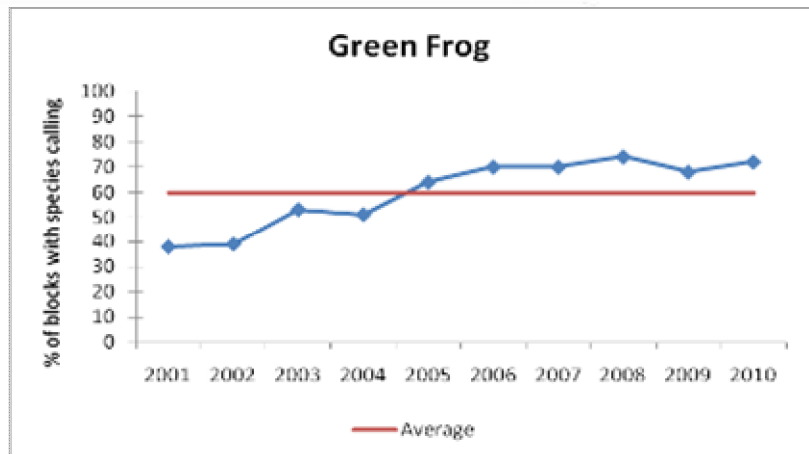
Gray Treefrogs were heard in 62% of the survey blocks and in all seven subwatersheds for the first time. They were heard in far more blocks than last year as well as far more than the average of 47%.

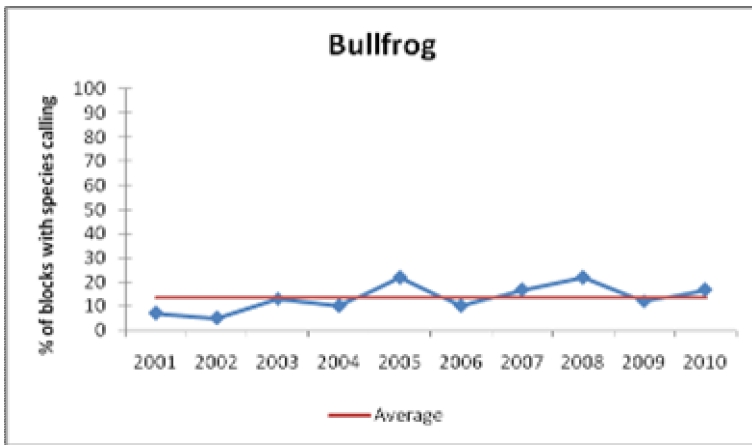
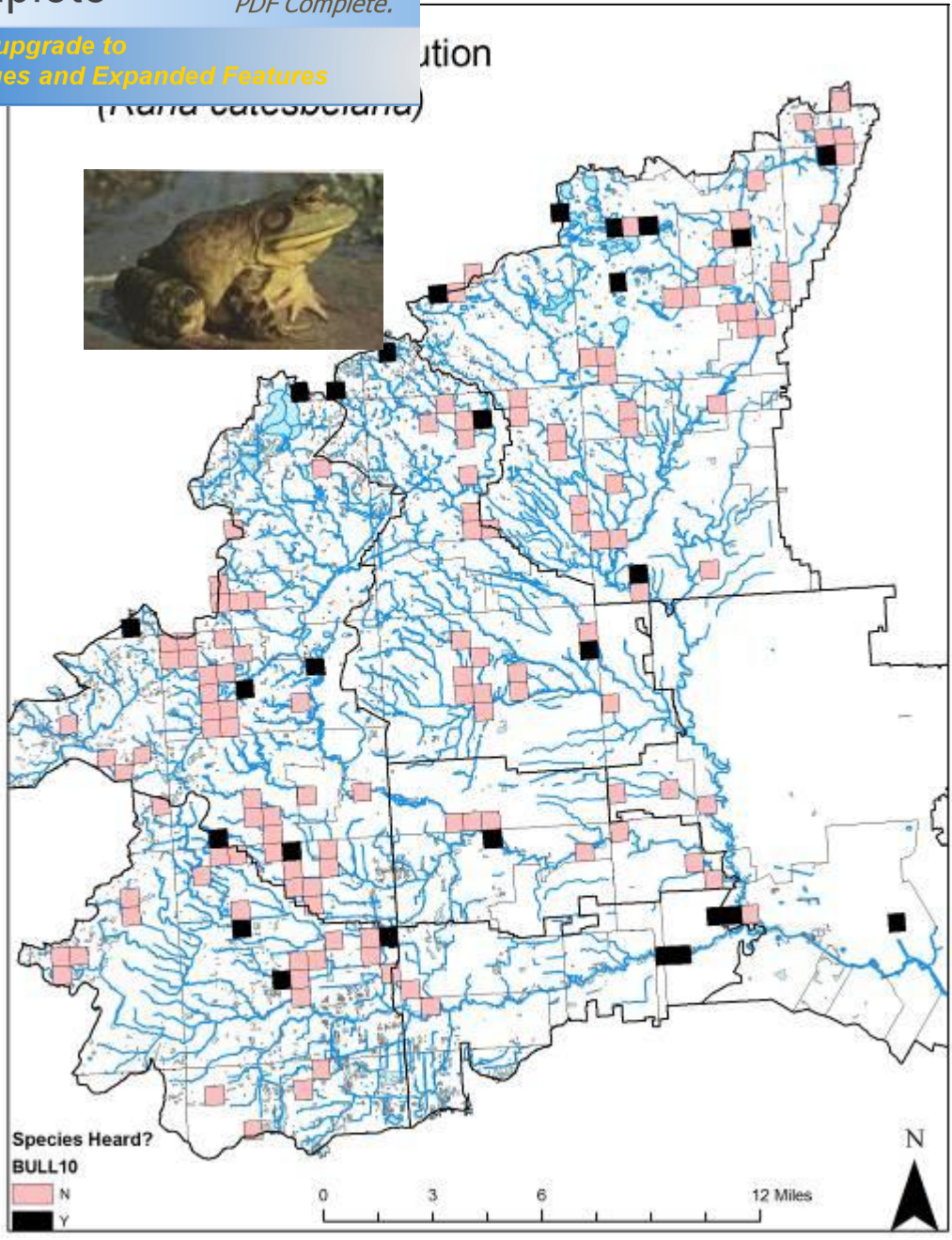






Green frogs were heard in over half of the survey blocks (72%) and in all seven subwatersheds. This is up from last year and above the average of 59% for Green Frogs.





Bullfrogs were heard in 17% of survey blocks and in all seven subwatersheds. This is up from last year and above the average.

# Diversity

