

AMBYSTOMA MABEEI (Mabee's Salamander). **BREEDING MIGRATION.** *Ambystoma mabeei* reportedly migrates to breeding ponds from late fall through early spring (Martof et al. 1980. *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas and Virginia*. Univ. of North Carolina Press. Chapel Hill, 264 pp.). Hardy (1969. *Bull. Maryland. Herpetol. Soc.* 5:65–77) found that in North Carolina *A. mabeei* migrated to breeding sites from January to March, but little is known of the breeding phenology of this species in other parts of its range. Hardy (*op. cit.*) noted that at least some museum specimens collected in November and December from South Carolina appeared to be fully ripe, suggesting that *A. mabeei* may breed earlier in the southern part of its range. During a study of herpetofaunal communities associated with isolated ephemeral wetlands in Marion Co., South Carolina, USA, three *A. mabeei* were captured in pitfall traps as they attempted to enter the wetlands. On 11 November 1996, we captured a single adult male attempting to enter a 0.41 ha forested wetland (SVL 45.2 mm; meteorological conditions during the 24 h prior to capture were: clear skies; precipitation = 0 mm; max air temp. = 10°C; min air temp. = 1°C; mean water temp. = 13.6°C). On 12 December 1996, a single adult male was captured at the edge of a second, 0.38 ha wetland (SVL 51.0 mm; overcast skies; precipitation = 1.4 mm; max air temp. = 27°C; min air temp. = 12°C; mean water temp. = 11.2°C) and on 20 December 1996, another adult male was taken from the same wetland (SVL 45.5 mm; clear skies; precipitation = 0 mm; max air temp. = 7°C; min air temp. = -5°C; mean water temp. = 5.9°C). No additional *A. mabeei* have been captured during subsequent daily monitoring of drift fences encircling each wetland. The present findings in South Carolina provide further evidence that *A. mabeei* may breed earlier in the southern part of its range. Large breeding migrations and successful reproduction of *Ambystoma* spp. appear to be tied to appropriate rainfall and temperature conditions during a relatively narrow period (Pechmann et al. 1991. *Science* 253:892–895). As research at the wetlands continues we hope to determine whether the paucity of *A. mabeei* captures from these sites reflects true population densities or unfavorable environmental conditions during the 1996–97 breeding season.

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