

Biological survey of amphibians: Greenwoods Conservancy,
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INTRODUCTION

Greenwoods Conservancy, located in Otsego County in Burlington, New York, is a one thousand acre plus property placed under conservation easement by the Otsego Land Trust (Taylor, 1996). The State University of New York at Oneonta's Biological Field Station, under the before mentioned easement, conducts research and environmental education with its personnel on site. The pristine nature of the 70 acre Cranberry Bog, its watershed, beaver ponds and the surrounding wetlands suggest an ideal situation for the needs of various amphibians. Their survey was in order. This paper is a result of that work.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A triangle net proved to be the handiest method for capturing the frogs that were collected. Salamanders were captured using a quick hand. The following sites were surveyed (see Figure 1 for site locations):

- Stream W3 near its mouth
- Beaver Dam Trail wetland and ponds
- Dock area on Cranberry Bog near Shelter Road
- Outlet stream WI in its deep ravine
- Beaver ponds and wetlands south of the Peterson Compound on the Yellow Trail
- Wetland and shore line north section of Bog
- Stream W2
- Wetlands along Bog on west
- Shoreline areas near outlet of Bog
- Beaver pond along Cranberry Bog Road

Specimens were caught, identified and released. Representative specimens were collected and preserved in 25% Formalin aqueous solution and identified at the Field Station.

Collections were attempted from 7/23 - 8/22/97. All areas were inspected at least once in each of three time frames: early morning (7am-11am); midday (11am-3 pm); and late afternoon (4pm-8pm).

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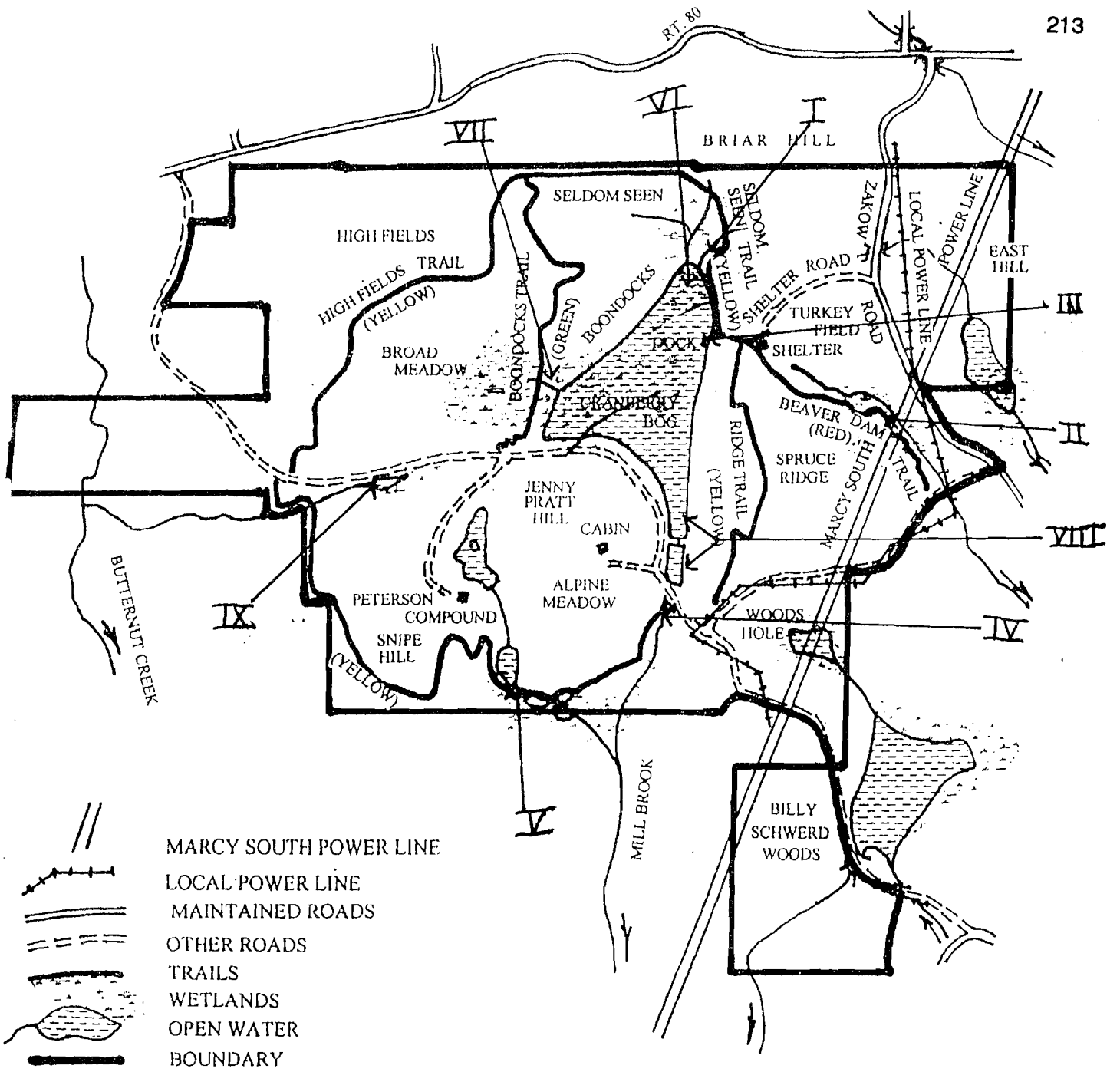


Figure 1. Greenwoods Conservancy, indicating collection sites (I-IX).

RESULTS

Limited species diversity was observed among the frogs, toads, and salamanders. American toads and Red-backed salamanders were found throughout the wooded areas. Leopard frogs inhabited all surveyed aquatic areas in great numbers. Green frogs had their greatest concentrations in all the beaver pond areas. Only two Wood frogs were observed, both near the beaver ponds along the Red trail. Two-lined salamanders were found in most moist, wooded terrestrial stream areas but never were found in areas that might be frequently submerged. The Two-lined salamanders were very numerous in the outlet ravine leading from Cranberry Bog. Dusky salamanders were found only along the banks of stream W3 between the Yellow Trail and Cranberry Bog. In this area a rare terrestrial Dusky salamander, which had retained its gills, was collected. A synopsis of the amphibians collected at the various sites at Greenwoods is given in Table 1.

DISCUSSION

The Greenwoods Conservancy displays a vast potential for containing a rich and diverse amphibian population. At the time of this survey, this area had been experiencing near drought conditions. The dry conditions were most likely the reason the diversity of species observed was not greater. Many expected species were not noted.

REFERENCES

- Conant, R. 1958. A field guide to reptiles and amphibians. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA.
- Bishop, S. C. 1941. The salamanders of New York. The New York State Museum Bulletin No. 324, Albany, NY.
- Behler, J. L. and King, F. W. 1979. National Audubon Society field guide to North American reptiles and amphibians. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. New York, NY.

DISTRIBUTION OF AMPHIBIANS

A American Toad	<i>(Bufo americanus)</i>
B Green Frog	<i>(Rana clamitans)</i>
C Northern Leopard Frog	<i>(Rana pipiens)</i>
D Wood Frog	<i>(Rana sylvatica)</i>
E Two-lined Salamander	<i>(Eurycea bislineata)</i>
F Dusky Salamander	<i>(Desmognathus fuscus)</i>
G Red-backed Salamander	<i>(Plethodon cinereus)</i>

- I Stream W3
- 11 Beaver Darn Trail
- III Dock on Cranberry Bog
- IV Outlet stream WI
- V Southern beaver ponds Yellow Trail
- VI Wet lands north section of Bog
- VII Stream W2 and Wetlands
- VIII Shoreline near outlet of Bog
- IX Beaver Ponds on Cranberry Bog Road

		III	IV	VI	VIII
A					
B	x	x			x
c	x	x	x	x	x
D	x				
E	x		x		
F					
G	x				