

Marbled Salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*)

- Considered a priority species in the *NC Wildlife Action Plan* (NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 2005)
- A uniquely-patterned, chunky salamander; males typically have brighter whitish patterns than females
- Found in a variety of habitats, from upland forests and forest edges to wetlands and floodplain forests. Occurs throughout most of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain of NC, and in a few localities in the Mountains
- Adults are terrestrial, and in autumn migrate, sometimes great distances, to woodland pools or depressions for breeding
- Breeding is terrestrial, and females deposit eggs under natural cover objects on pool edges and guard them until rain floods the nest before returning to terrestrial retreats
- Larvae are aquatic upon hatching, then transform to terrestrial juveniles
- Loss of habitat and fragmentation of habitat threaten local populations

Distribution in NC
(from NC State Museum of Natural Sciences)

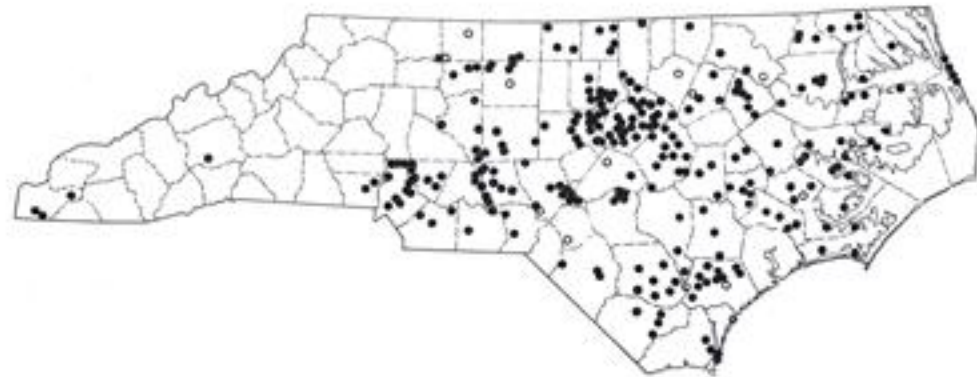


Photo by Todd Pusser