

# In response to: Assessment of translocations of Blanchard's cricket frog (*Acris crepitans blanchardi*) in southeast Michigan



**Edythe Sonntag**

Michigan State University  
Department of Fisheries and  
Wildlife, and Detroit Zoologi-  
cal Institute National Amphib-  
ian Conservation Center

## **Abstract**

As one of the researchers involved in the project referenced in Ariana Rickard's article, *Assessment of translocations of Blanchard's cricket frogs (*Acris crepitans blanchardi*) in southeast Michigan* (this issue), I have a different interpretation of the results and accomplishments of the emergency translocation of cricket frogs from the Lakewood Farm construction site. Rickard's interpretation of this program as a failure may eventually prove to be accurate, but is, at best, premature. Long-term monitoring is required before an accurate assessment of the success or failure of an established, self-sustaining population at the translocation sites can be completed. Though I agree with many basic principles presented in Rickard's article, translocation should not be eliminated as a possible conservation tool for this and other species until long term and more complete monitoring data are available. The inevitable destruction of habitat in this case required the translocation of parts of the endangered local population of Blanchard's cricket frogs to occur sooner than expected. Since a full feasibility study was not possible given the immediacy of the situation, decisions were based on the best life history data available. Even if the population translocations that were attempted were complete failures (which remains to be determined), these failures will provide valuable information on which to base future plans for translocation when extensive planning can be done with more adequate time.

## **Resumen**

Como uno de los investigadores involucrados en el proyecto al que hace referencia el artículo de Ms. Richard; Evaluación de los traslados de la rana *Acris crepitans blanchardi* en el sureste de Michigan (este volumen), tengo una interpretación diferente de los resultados y logros de este traslado de emergencia de ranas Blanchard del lugar de construcción en Lakewood Farms. La interpretación de Ms. Rickard de este programa como un fracaso puede ser correcta eventualmente, pero es prematura. Se necesita monitoreo a largo plazo antes que se pueda completar una evaluación correcta de éxito o fracaso en el establecimiento de una población auto-sustentable en las áreas de traslado. Aunque estoy de acuerdo con muchos de los principios básicos presentados en su artículo, el traslado de poblaciones no se debe eliminar como una posible herramienta de conservación para ésta y otras especies hasta que los datos de monitoreos mas completos y a largo plazo estén disponibles.