

An Overview of the Lost Cricket Project

The Lost Cricket Project is recruiting citizen scientists in Oklahoma to help find new populations of the rare prairie mole cricket during the months of March through May.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation lists this species as a Tier I species of greatest conservation need. They are thought to exist only in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas.

Since prairie mole crickets are only heard during a short time in the spring, call from underground, and are surrounded by tall vegetation, they can be really hard to find. That is why little is currently known about where in Oklahoma this mysterious creature lives.



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Currently, the International Union for Conservation of Nature lists the species as data deficient. By participating in “The Lost Cricket Project”, you can help collect scientific data by finding new populations of prairie mole crickets. These new locations will be used by scientist to create an updated species distribution map for Oklahoma and to help develop protocols for conducting acoustic surveys of prairie mole crickets. A mobile phone app that is compatible with both IOS and android phones has been created that will allow you to submit recordings of prairie mole crickets, their location, and habitat information.

By watching three more videos, you will receive the training necessary to help find new populations.

“The Lost Cricket Project” has been developed by researchers from the University of New Hampshire and the University of Tulsa with support from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and The Nature Conservancy.

