

THE LOST CRICKET PROJECT



Photo Credit: Dr. Daniel Howard



Photo Credit: Mike Fuhr



Photo Credit: Dave Dolcater

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM AIMED TO FIND NEW POPULATIONS OF PRAIRIE MOLE CRICKETS IN OKLAHOMA!

What is a prairie mole cricket?



Photo Credit: Ryan West

The prairie mole cricket is a rare species of cricket that is thought to exist only in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas. They are the largest species of cricket in North America and can measure over two inches in length! Prairie mole crickets have claw-like forelimbs that allow them to dig in the soil.

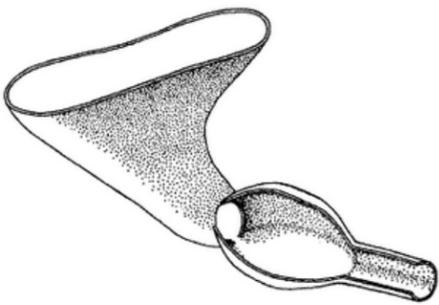


Photo Credit: Calvert & Figg 1990

Males create chambers at the soil surface that greatly amplify the sound of their calls. Between **mid-March and mid-May**, male prairie mole crickets produce a mating call at dusk to attract flying females.

Concerns!



Photo Credit: Ryan West

The prairie mole cricket is found in tallgrass and mixed-grass prairie ecosystems that historically expanded across 12 states. Tallgrass prairies are considered endangered since they have been reduced in area by over 85-98% over the past few hundred years. In part due to this habitat loss, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation lists the prairie mole cricket as a **Tier I Species of Greatest Conservation Need**.

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

The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists the prairie mole cricket as data deficient.

How you can help by participating!

A citizen science program, called the Lost Cricket Project, is currently recruiting participants to help find new populations of prairie mole crickets! By participating in "The Lost Cricket Project," **you** can help collect valuable scientific data that will be used to create an updated species distribution map. This information will be used to help manage this rare native Oklahoma species.

A mobile phone app has been created that will allow you to submit recordings of prairie mole crickets by following the steps below:

- 1) Watch four short training videos.
- 2) Download Survey123 for ArcGIS app on mobile device.
- 3) Download the Lost Cricket Survey app by visiting the link below or scanning this QR Code.



More information can be found at <https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlife/wildlife-diversity/lost-cricket-project>



PRAIRIE BIOTIC RESEARCH