

Car detour lets toads cross road without croaking

June 12 2014, by Kathy Matheson



A baby toad sits along side a road, Wednesday, June 11, 2014, in the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia. A humid and rainy summer night makes for quite a rush hour in Philadelphia as thousands of baby toads try to hop across a busy street. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

It's rush hour in Philadelphia for thousands of baby toads as they hop across a busy residential street on a rainy summer night.

Why do toadlets cross the road? To get to woods on the other side. It's

their annual migration through dense vegetation from an abandoned reservoir where they were born.

To help the tiny amphibians survive the trip, volunteers each year set up the Toad Detour. The roadblock reroutes cars so the animals—each about the size of a raisin—can cross the two-lane street safely.

The detour also goes up during mating season. Each spring, adult [toads](#) travel from the woods to their [breeding ground](#) at the reservoir.

About six weeks later, their [offspring](#) make the journey in reverse.



A baby toad is shown, Wednesday, June 11, 2014, in the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia. A humid and rainy summer night makes for quite a rush hour in Philadelphia as thousands of baby toads try to hop across a busy street. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)



A baby toad sits on a road, Wednesday, June 11, 2014, in the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia. A humid and rainy summer night makes for quite a rush hour in Philadelphia as thousands of baby toads try to hop across a busy street. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)



A baby toad sits along side a road, Wednesday, June 11, 2014, in the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia. A humid and rainy summer night makes for quite a rush hour in Philadelphia as thousands of baby toads try to hop across a busy street. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

© 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Car detour lets toads cross road without croaking (2014, June 12) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-06-car-detour-toads-road-croaking.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.