

THOMAS K. PAULEY, Department of Biological Sciences, Marshall University, Huntington, WV, 25755. **Field notes on the reproduction of the Cheat Mountain Salamander (*Plethodon nettingi*).**

In 1989, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated the Cheat Mountain Salamander as a federally threatened species. I have collected data on this species over a 39-year period spanning from 1976 through 2015. Sexually mature males display two secondary sexual characteristics, squared snouts and swollen cloacae. Squared snouts are usually first observed in late July and early August. Cloacae start to swell in late August and early September. By mid-September, both characteristics are obvious and these traits continue to be observable until late May of the ensuing year. Mature ovarian eggs are visible through the body wall of sexually mature females in late August or early September. Gravid females, i.e., those with mature ovarian eggs, are easily distinguished from nongravid females in September, October, and November or until they submerge into their winter subterranean refugia. Gravid females continue to be easily identified the ensuing spring after emergence from winter refugia to early June. The latest date I have found gravid females in the spring/summer is June 10. By early June, gravid females have deposited their eggs and are tending them in nests under rocks, logs, or in logs. I have observed nests with eggs and tending females from May 15 to July 26. I have found neonates in nests with females in September, indicating that eggs hatch in September.