AmphibiaWeb accounts, and the road to Milestone 2

Eleutherodactylus Research Studio · Fall 2026

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2026-09-28

Where we are

- **Today:** Milestone 1 (project proposals) due
- Two things worth 15 minutes before you get back to work: your individual AmphibiaWeb account, and the path from here to Milestone 2 (Oct 21)

Part 1 — the AmphibiaWeb account

Why this is a real contribution

- Not a class exercise you throw away in December
- A citable, permanent publication with **your name on it**
- Timeline: species claimed (done, week 2) → **full draft Oct 21 → second draft Nov 18 → final draft Nov 30**

What the account has to do

Five things, per the AmphibiaWeb guidelines:

- **Description** — diagnostic morphology; what distinguishes your species from its closest congeners
- **Distribution and habitat**
- **Natural history / life history**
- **The call** — only if a call description has been published
- **Conservation status**

Sourcing each section

- **Description:** the original species description, plus any redescriptions — start with Amphibian Species of the World for the current synonymy, then the bibliography page
- **Distribution:** the original description and later papers (type locality, material examined); the IUCN Red List page is the one secondary source AmphibiaWeb accepts. No GBIF, VertNet, or iNaturalist records
- **Natural history:** the original description plus any subsequent natural history notes or field guide accounts
- **Conservation:** the IUCN Red List entry, if one exists — if not, say so plainly rather than guessing
- **Calls:** published call descriptions only (they go under Life History). Your team's measurements are unpublished and stay out of the account; if no call has been published, say so

Writing quality bar

- A stub is not a passing account — this is a citable publication; **cite every factual claim**
- Before you start, skim 2–3 existing AmphibiaWeb accounts for a related species — match the structure and voice
- “I think” and unsupported inference don’t belong; if a source disagrees with another, say so and cite both

This week — individual

- ▢ Confirm your claim is still recorded correctly (ask if unsure)
- ▢ Find and read the original species description
- ▢ Read the AmphibiaWeb guidelines + template (on the pod)
- ▢ Check your species' IUCN Red List page
- ▢ Skim 2 existing AmphibiaWeb accounts for structure
- Full draft due **Oct 14** — that's 2.5 weeks from today

Part 2 — from proposal to Milestone 2

The next 3.5 weeks

Date	What
Mon Sep 28	Milestone 1 (proposals) due — today
Wed Sep 30	Work session + stand-ups
Mon/Wed Oct 5/7	Reproducible workflows micro-lesson + work session
Mon/Wed Oct 12/14	Summary stats micro-lesson; **AmphibiaWeb full draft due**; mid-semester evals
Mon Oct 19	Micro-lesson as needed (team-driven)
Wed Oct 21	**Milestone 2 — clean data + QC notebook due**; in-class data audits

Milestone 2, concretely

- “**Clean data**” = one CSV per team, `team<N>_measurements.csv`, one row per measured call
- “**QC notebook**” = a rendered `team-measurement-template.qmd` that gets you there — every team already has this file
- The path is the template’s own steps — it *is* your roadmap, not a separate thing to design

The template is your roadmap

1. Assign recordings among the team (who measures what)
2. Look before you select: overview spectrogram → pick a clean window
3. Steward merges everyone's `selections_<initials>.csv`
4. Measure every call: duration, rate, dominant frequency
5. **Spot-check outliers** (>2 SD) against the spectrogram — a number is not a measurement until you've looked at where it came from
6. Summarize by male, then by species; one first-look figure
7. Stand-up: done / in the way / next

What "done" looks like by Oct 21

- Every file in your team folder has been through step 2 — or has a documented reason it can't be (see your roster's loose ends)
- One merged measurements CSV and a rendered notebook, in your team folder
- Outliers checked, not just computed
- Your roster's known gaps (missing files, missing temperature) are **in the notebook as stated caveats** — not surprises in November

Team-specific gaps and this week's task

- Every team's internal roster now has a **"This week"** box at the top — that's where to start, not the proposal you just turned in
- Two kinds of gap on every roster:
  - **Yours to work around** — format limits, small samples, sourcing: start measuring anyway, document the limit in your methods
  - **Mine to unblock** — missing files, unconfirmed metadata, external material: I'm chasing these this week; don't wait on them to start measuring what you already have

Team 2's temperature calibration

- *E. marnockii* is Team 2's own species, confirmed calling at BFL itself (a 2024 voucher)
- The PAM archive's detector work is real but still thin: one pilot night, no validated threshold yet. Not a route to a temperature range this week
- Instead: field-notebook temperatures for Team 2's own vouchers, correlated against calls they've already measured. Likely small N; say so plainly rather than force a curve

Wednesday's stand-up

Bring three things: what's measured, what's blocked, what you need from me. I'll circulate during work time — flag your roster's "Mine to unblock" items if I haven't already gotten to them.