American toad  
*Bufo americanus*

**Defining characteristics**
- Medium to large toad (5.1-9.0 cm)
- Dorsum gray, brown, olive, or brick red in color
- Light middorsal stripe (not always present)
- Chest usually spotted with dark pigment
- Warts may vary from yellow, orange, red or dark brown
- Parotoid and cranial crests between the eyes are prominent
- Parotoid separate or connected by ridge by a spur
- 1-2 warts per dark spot
- 2 tubercles on foot
- Males have dark throat patches

**Call**
- Long high musical trill
- 6-30 seconds in length
- Trill 30-40 per second
Fowler’s toad
*Bufo fowleri*

**Defining characteristics**
- Medium in size (5.1-7.5 cm)
- Coloration is gray, brown, greenish or brick red
- Light middorsal stripe
- Chest and belly unspotted (usually)
- Parotoid and cranial crests between the eyes are prominent
- Parotoid touches postorbital ridge
- 3-5 warts per dark spot
- Males have dark throat patches

**Call**
- Short bleep
- Nasal *a-a-a-a-a-a...*
- 1-4 seconds in length

Northern cricket frog
*Acris crepitans*

**Defining characteristics**
- Small in size (1.6-3.5 cm)
- Coloration is tan to brown
- Bumpy skin
- Dark triangle between eyes
- Median stripe and Y figure down back
- Patch of green, red, yellow or deep brown in the Y
- Rear feet fully webbed

**Call**
- Sounds like pebbles being tapped together
- Starts slowly in tempo-fast-then slow
- 20-30 beats in length

Gray treefrog
*Hyla versicolor*

**Defining characteristics**
- Small frog (3.2-5.1 cm)
- Coloration normally gray or green (variable)
- Distinctive “lichen-like” coloration
- Light spot beneath eye
- Coloration of hind legs bright orange or yellow mottled with black
- Skin slightly warty
- Tarsal scales smooth
- Toes are round adhesive discs rear feet partially webbed

**Call**
- Slow vibrating trill
- 17-35 pulses per second in length
Spring Peeper  
*Psuedacris crucifer*

**Defining characteristics**
- Small in size (1.9-3.2 cm)
- Coloration includes shades of yellow, brown, gray or olive
- Belly is light and unmarked
- Dark line connects the eyes
- Dark cross on back is an X (generally imperfect in form)
- Toe discs small
- Feet slightly webbed-no webbing between the toes
- Males have black vocal pouch and are smaller than females

**Call**
- A high peep-like sound
- 1/2 second in length

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Upland chorus frog  
*Psuedacris feriarum*

**Defining characteristics**
- Small in size (1.9-3.5 cm)
- Coloration normally brown or gray
- Light line along upper lip
- Dark stripe from snout to groin passes through eye
- 3 thin dark stripes often broken along the back
- A dark triangle between the eyes
- Small expanded toe pads on toes
- Webbing lacking between toes

**Call**
- Repeated *creeeek* or *preep*
- Sounds like running your fingers across a comb

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Eastern narrowmouth toad  
*Gastrophryne carolinensis*

**Defining characteristics**
- Small in size (2.2-3.2 cm)
- Coloration varies between gray, brown or reddish
- Pointed narrow mouth
- Fold of skin across back of head
- Short limbs
- Broad dorsal area with lighter stripes along the sides
- Stripes are usually brown or mottled
- Belly mottled
- Round toes
- No webbing between the toes
- Males have black throat where vocal patch is located

**Call**
- Like the bleat of a lamb
- Vibrant quality like a buzzer
- 1/2-4 seconds in length
Eastern Spadefoot

*Scaphiopus holbrookii*

**Defining characteristics**
- Medium in size (4.4–5.7 cm)
- Coloration brown, grayish or blackish brown
- Vertical pupil
- Sharp-edged spade on foot
- 2 yellowish lines beginning from the eye and leading down the back form a sort of outline of an hourglass shape along the back
- Belly is white and unmarked
- Species has a very musty peppery smell

**Call**
- Low grunt, rough and cough like
- Described like the call of a young crow: "errrgh"
- Short in duration and repeated at brief intervals

Bullfrog

*Rana catesbiana*

**Defining characteristics**
- Large frog (9–15.2 cm)
- Coloration green or pattern of gray or brown with green background
- Belly white mottled with gray and a yellowish color on throat (especially in males)
- Large tympanum
- Distinct black bars on dorsal surface of thighs and lower legs
- Rear feet highly webbed, front feet are not
- No dorsolateral ridges on trunk
- Fold of skin goes around tympanum does not extend down back
- In Bull frogs and Green frogs can identify if male or female by the size of the tympanum
  - Tympanum same size of eye = Female
  - Tympanum larger than the eye = Male
- Breeding males have the base of the thumb enlarged and forearms are swollen

**Call**
- Loud bass calls
- "jug-o-rum"

Green Frog

*Rana clamitans*

**Defining characteristics**
- Medium in size (5.7–9.0 cm)
- Coloration ranging from green, greenish brown, dark brown
- Belly is white with dark mottling
- Male has a yellow throat (males), light gray to white
- Large tympanum
- Center of tympanum raised
- Dorsolateral ridge ends on body
- Rear feet highly webbed
- Top of thighs and legs are not highly barred

**Call**
- Sounds like the plucking of a loose banjo string
- Call loud and explosive
- Repeated once or several times
Pickerel frog  
*Rana palustris*

**Defining characteristics**
- Medium in size (4.4-7.5 cm)
- Coloration ranging from olive green to brownish
- Cream colored dorsolateral ridges that extend from behind the eye to the groin
- Belly whitish in coloring
- Square spots arranged in two parallel rows down the back, between dorsolateral ridges
- Bright yellow or orange on undersurface of legs
- Light line along upper jaw
- No white spot in center of tympanum
- Males have two vocal sacs

**Call**
- Steady low-pitched snore
- “yeeooooow”
- 1-2 seconds in length

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Southern leopard frog  
*Rana sphenocephala*

**Descriptive characteristics**
- Medium in size (5.1-9.0 cm)
- Coloration ranging from brown to green
- 3-2 rows of randomly placed spots in between dorsolateral ridges
- Spots rounded with light borders
- Few additional dark spots on sides of body
- White spot in center of tympanum
- Light line on upper jaw
- Long pointed head
- Male vocal sacs lie loose on side of jaw spherical in shape when inflated

**Call**
- Short chuck like call
- Pulse rate of 13 seconds
- Sounds like rubbing your hand on a balloon

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Citations and Helpful Websites

**Identification information**

**Pictures**
- USGS- Checklist of amphibian species and identification guide  
- Frog and Toads of North Carolina  

**Pictures and Sounds**
- LEAPS-Environmental Consulting  