

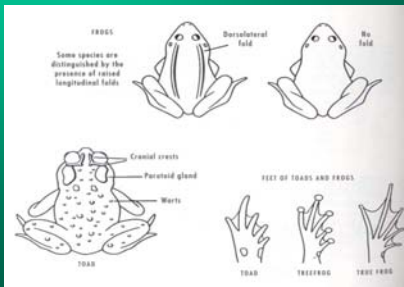


Common Tennessee Amphibians WFS 340

Order Anura



Frogs and Toads





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 to 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





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Fowler's toad *Bufo fowleri*



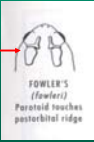
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Defining characteristics


- 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 warts per dark spot
- Males have dark throat patches

Call

- Short bleat
- Nasal *W-a-a-a-a-h*
- 1-4 seconds in length



FOWLER'S (Fowler's)
Parotoid touches postorbital ridge





© Will Brown

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: "Dorsal Racing Stripe"
- Patch of green, red, yellow or deep brown in the Y
- Rear feet fully webbed (1/2 up longest toe)---Southern (very little webbing)

Call

- Sounds like pebbles (marbles) being tapped together
- Starts slowly in tempo-fast-then slow (Geiger counter)
- 20-30 beats in length

NOTE: Southern cricket frog has a more steady "tapping" call
(only in SW TN)



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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
- Concealed surfaces of hind legs bright orange or yellow mottled with black: "Flash Colors"
- Skin slightly warty
- Toes are rounded adhesive discs-rear feet partially webbed

Call

- Slow vibrating high-pitch trill
- 17-35 pulses per second in length




© Ed Nield '09 '10

Green treefrog *Hyla cinerea*

Defining characteristics

- Size 2.5 – 6 cm
- Smooth green skin

Call

- Short nasal “quonk”
- Sounds like a “bicycle horn”

West TN





Urban County, TN. Photo by Mike Patton



Spring Peeper *Pseudacris 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




photo credit: J.D. Wilson and Michael Dorcas

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Southeastern chorus frog *Pseudacris 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 *crreeek* or *prreeep*
- Sounds like running your fingers across a comb





photo credit: Michael Dorcas and J.D. Wilson

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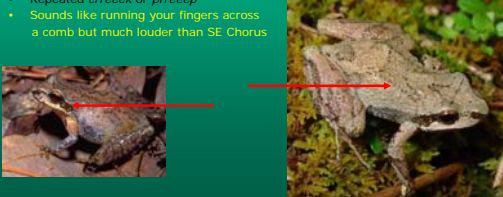
Mountain chorus frog *Pseudacris brachyphona*

Defining characteristics

- Small in size (2.5-3.8 cm)
- Dark line through eye giving a "dark mask" appearance
- Stripes of back form backward parenthesis
- Small expanded toe pads on toes
- webbing lacking between toes

Call

- Repeated *crreeek* or *prreeep*
- Sounds like running your fingers across a comb but much louder than SE Chorus



Eastern narrowmouth toad *Gastrophryne carolinensis*

photo credit: J.D. Wilson

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 broken or mottled
- Belly mottled
- **Round eyes**
- 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



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Eastern spadefoot *Scaphiopus holbrookii*

Ed Nied, Jr.

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 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**-*"errgh"*
- Short in duration and repeated at brief intervals



SPADEFOOT



Sharp edged spade

EYE




Vertical pupil

HEAD




No parotid glands

© Tom Tynning, Mass Audubon



American Bullfrog *Rana catesbeiana*



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 thumbs enlarge 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**
- "yeooooow"
- 1-2 seconds in length

Similar to gopher frog:
gopher is lower pitched

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**

Wood frog *Rana sylvatica*

Descriptive characteristics

- A small frog (3-5.5 cm)
- Generally solid tan in color
- **Dark mask behind eye with white lip**

Call

- Mallard **"food chuckle"**



Citations and Helpful Websites

Identification information

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