

LEOPARD FROGS



These mid-sized (2–4.5" long) frog species are green or brown /w dark, rounded spots and back ridges. They live in wetlands, ponds, and near streams and rivers. These species differ slightly in look and call. The

northern leopard frog. (L. pipens) has large, darker even spaced, haloed spots and a deep, 2-3 second snore-like call. NYS museum ID'd a juvenile here in the 1990s. The southern leopard frog (L. sphenoccephala) has small, irregular scattered spots /w bright tympanum dot and a rapid chuck call. Unknown here, it is in the county. Finally the Atlantic coast leopard frog (L. kauffeldi): has spots like SLF, but muted and a repetitive, creaky door call. This new (2014) species is also unknown here, but is in county.

AMERICAN TOAD (Anaxyrus americanus)



The American toad is a medium (2.0-3.5 in. long) toad /w tan to brownish, warty skin and short legs. Our subspecies is the E. American toad. The species lives in upland sites like

forests, scrublands, fields, gardens, other habitats. It eats insects, worms, slugs and other invertebrates. Its high trill call is often heard at night. It is quite long-lived, sometimes living more than 30 years.

FOWLER'S TOAD (Anaxyrus fowleri)



Fowler's toad is a large (2.0-3.7 in. long) toad /w rusty red, brown or olive green coloring with dark warty spots and a pale belly. This toad is native to the E. U.S. and is found in forested

areas and near water. Its eats insects worms slugs and other invertebrates. Its call is a nasally 'waaah' sound. This toad is named for famous 1800s American naturalist Samuel Page Fowler.

CHYTRID FUNGAL DISEASE

What it is: Chytridiomycosis also known as chytrid is an often fatal amphibian skin infection caused by the fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and spread by spores in water or physical contact that. The infected skin loses its ability to regulate water and ions properly. It is of no harm to people but is a major threat to amphibians worldwide.

How To Help: Help stop its spread by always cleaning boats, gear and never moving animals.

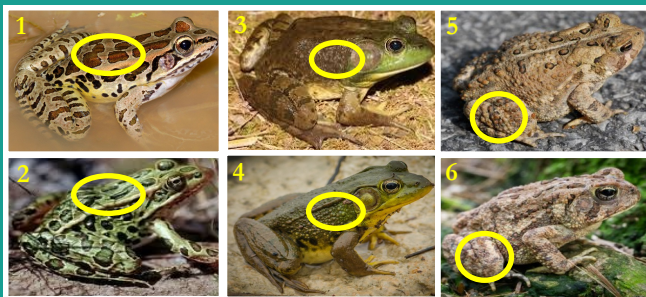
FAQs: FROGS VS TOADS, WARTS

Q: What's the difference between frogs and toads? A: *The distinction is informal and cosmetic. All toads are frogs but not all frogs are toads. Non-toad frogs have smooth skin and live in water while true toads have warty skin and live on land.*

Q: Do frogs and toads have warts? A: *Some frogs may have some small non-warty skin bumps while toads do have warts which can be used for hydration, hiding and chemical defense. People cannot get warts from frogs and toads.*

HOW TO IDENTIFY FROG SPECIES

Some species on this list may look too alike to tell apart at first glance. Below, are some helpful hints for parsing look-a-likes. When IDing frogs, don't rely on color or pattern. These vary. Look instead at size, body shape and distinct features.



PICKEREL FROG vs. LEOPARD FROGS

The pickerel frog (1) tends is duller color with rectangular spots in two rows on its back while leopard frogs (2) are usually brighter in color with irregular, more rounded spots.

AMERICAN BULLFROG vs. GREEN FROG

Aside from very different calls, the bullfrog (3) has a larger head and hindfeet webbing and lacks a distinct coastal fold on its side. The green frog (4) has a **distinct coastal fold**.

AMERICAN TOAD vs. FOWLER'S TOAD

The American toad (5) has a dark chest, belly spots and large calf warts. It has small spots & large warts. Fowler's toad (6) meanwhile, has large spots and small warts.

Handling: It is best not to handle amphibians, which can absorb oils, chemicals via their skin and transmit germs or toxins to you. If you must handle one, use wet nitrile gloves if you can and be sure to wash your hands afterwards.

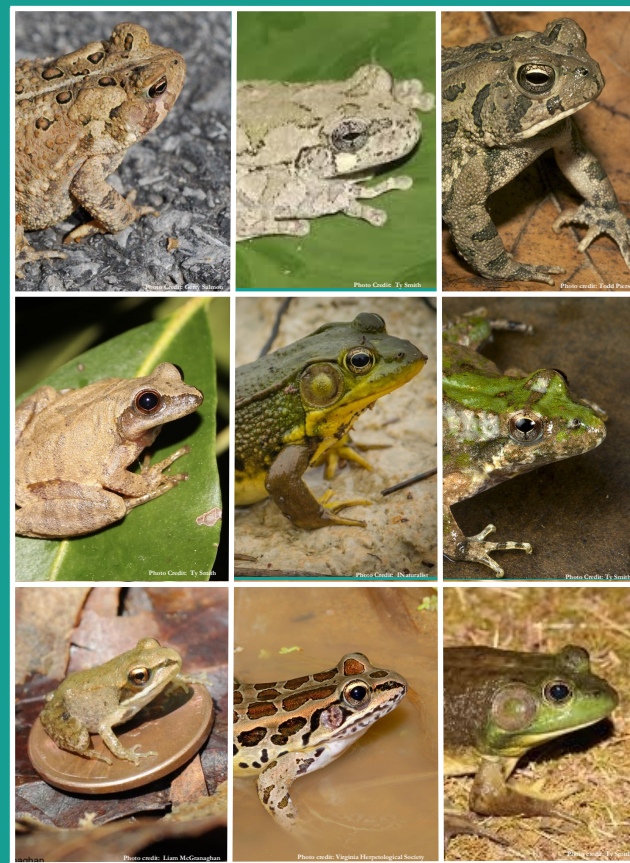
BEST PRACTICES REVIEW

Help Keep People, Pets and Amphibians Safe

In addition to practices already mentioned like **LIMITING HANDLING**, **NOT RELEASING PETS**, **ALWAYS CLEANING EQUIPMENT** and **NOT HARVESTING AMPHIBIANS**:

- **LIMIT PESTICIDE USE** - Use pesticides sparingly, in accordance with label and away from aquatic habitats.
- **KEEP PETS AWAY** - Pets can harm wildlife and vice versa. Keep cats indoors. Keep dogs leashed.
- **REPORT POLLUTION ISSUES** - Report oil or chemical you see, esp near waters or shore/bank erosion issues.

FROGS & TOADS OF THE WEST POINT MILITARY RESERVATION



U.S. ARMY GARRISON - WEST POINT
DPW - NATURAL RESOURCES SECTION

West Point Natural Resources Section (NRS)
Bldg 667A Ruger Road
USAG—West Point, NY 10996
www.westpoint.isportsman.net

FROGS & TOADS OF WEST POINT

The West Point Military Reservation is home to a unique array of frogs and toads, having at least eight native species, but potentially more. Though most of these frog and toad species are listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List, some of these species are species of special conservation concern. Many frog and toad species suffer from habitat loss, pollution and disease among other threats. Amphibians, as a whole, are going extinct at much higher rates than other species.

The goal of brochure, to help its readers correctly ID any frogs/toads they may encounter and in turn foster a greater understanding of these amazing creatures and how we can help them. What follows here is a list and short description of each of the eight documented species and four more, including pictures and very brief summaries of appearance, life history, habitat, diet calls, and other facts. We hope the material proves useful, but it is by no means a comprehensive guide. For more, see the NYSDEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov.

AN AMPHIBIAN PRIMER

Frogs and toads are amphibians, cold-blooded (ectothermic) animals also including salamanders, newts, and limbless tropical animals called caecilians.

Amphibians have certain traits including thin, moist skin they use to breathe and absorb water and it lays soft jelly-like eggs in water or damp areas.

Their namesake trait is a two-life metamorphosis they undergo to shift from a limbless, gilled aquatic tadpole stage to a limbed, lunged terrestrial or semi-aquatic adult.



1. Aquatic larva



2. Terrestrial or semiaquatic adult

AMPHIBIANS IN PERIL

Amphibians as a group are facing number of existential threats including many driven by human activities, resulting in severe global population declines and even extinction.

Causes for this alarming trend include habitat loss and degradation, pollution, overharvesting, invasive species, microplastics and fungal disease (more on this later).

HARVESTING: Bullfrog may be harvested in New York. Licensing, implement, season, size and bag limits and all other NYS, West Point regulations apply. NYS-protected Cricket frog and spadefoot toad and may not be harvested.

NEVER RELEASE PETS INCL. FROGS & TOADS: The release of frogs, toads or other pets - native or exotic can harm both the animal and environment. It is against NY and West Point regulations to release animals at West Point.

Jumping off: Frogs and toads are well adapted to jumping with strong hind leg muscles, elastic tendons and a flexible pelvis. Some species can jump up to 20 times their body length to escape danger or catch prey.

GREEN FROG (*Lithobates clamitans*)



The green frog is a medium (2-4" long) true frog with a green head, brown/olive body, and a light green and a pale white, cream or yellow belly. It is found throughout E North

America in swamps, streams, ponds, and ditches where it eats insects, invertebrates, small fish, and amphibians. Its call sounds like a plucked loose guitar string. This species has the ability to its sex, but it is unknown why.

AMERICAN BULLFROG (*L. catesbeiana*)



The bullfrog is the largest (3-6" long, up to 1.5 lbs) true frog in North America. It is green-brown /w post-eye eardrum tympana and light yellow-gray belly. It lives across E. N. America in lakes,

ponds, swamps, canals & ditches eating invertebrates, fish, amphibians, and small birds and rodents. Males emit a bull-like bellow. This frog is big global invasive species and is raised by man for food, dissection study.

PICKEREL FROG (*L. palustris*)



The pickerel frog is a medium (1-3" long, tan-green frog /w and dark 'squares' that are arranged in two rows on its back. It is native to the E U.S. and prefers to live in colder water streams

and cool bogs and eats insects, worms, and other invertebrates. It has a very low-pitched call, often too low to hear. It is the only **poisonous** frog native to the U.S., and their secretions can cause mild irritation.

Sticky Snatchers: Frog tongues are incredibly fast, able to extend and retract in milliseconds. Their tongues are also very sticky, coated with a special saliva to trap insects or other prey to prevent it from getting away.

WOOD FROG (*Lithobates sylvatica*)



The wood frog is a smaller (2-3" long) brown/tan frog with a dark eye mask. It is found throughout the E U.S. and Canada, living in forest and woodland sites but it also relies upon

fish-less, temporary vernal pools to breed in. It feeds on insects, worms, and snails. It has a gurgling, high pitch call and a remarkably more cold tolerant than other frogs, surviving being frozen solid in winter.

SPRING PEEPER (*Pseudacris crucifer*)



The spring peeper at 1-1.5" long), our smallest confirmed frog, is tan brown in color with a pale to dark cross on its back. It is often found on forest floors in leaf litter but can climb.

It eats insects, worms, and small snails and makes a distinctive, namesake peeping sound, used by males to attract mates. Its color can change through exposure to different temperatures and light levels for camouflage.

NORTHERN GRAY TREE FROG (*Dryophytes versicolor*)



This small (1.5-2" long, aboreal tree frog can change its color and pattern like a chameleon. Colors span brown, green, black, white & gray /w a dark band-like pattern on its body. and

It is found in trees in and around forested areas, eating insects and small invertebrates. It often calls in large choruses during breeding seasons. Frogs in unnatural surroundings turn a default gray color.

ARE THESE FROGS HERE?

NORTHERN CRICKET FROG (*Acris crepitans*)



This small (0.8-1.5" long) tree frog is gray-green with brown blotches and a brown/orange back stripe. It lives in heavily vegetated areas stream streams and rivers. It has a short, fast, pebble-like call.

While never found at West Point, suitable habitat for it does exist and so may the N. cricket frog itself.