

Eastern American Toad



- Most toads are brown, but their colour can range from grey-brown to red-brown.
- Breeding males have a black throat and are smaller than females.
- Toads emerge from hibernation and fill the night air with long, trilling calls in May and June.
- Strings of 6 to 12 thousand eggs are laid in warm shallows; the small dark polliwogs develop rapidly and transform into miniature toads by September.
- Toads are among the last amphibians to hibernate each fall, and may be seen into late November.
- Toads have a dry, "warty" skin. The "warts" are glands that contain a white sticky substance intended to turn away predators biting the toad.

Northern Spring Peeper



- These thumbnail-sized tree frogs leave their woodland hibernation sites as early as March in southwestern Nova Scotia.
- Their brown or gray colour, always with a dark stripe on the sides of the head and dark markings on the back provide excellent camouflage against the dead spring grasses.
- About 1000 eggs are laid singly on twigs and leaf litter at the pond bottom. Then adults head back to the woods for the summer, fall and winter.
- The tadpoles develop rapidly and transform from July through September.
- This treefrog eats mostly soft-bodied invertebrates. Small spiders, moth larvae and water midges are a common food items.

Green Frog



- Colour varies from yellow to green or bronze, sometimes with brown spots on the back.
- Look for a ridge above the eye that extends part way down the back: this will distinguish Green Frogs from Bullfrogs - in Bullfrogs the ridge curves down right behind the eardrum
- Breeding is in June and July. Males spread out among the shallows. The larger dominant males challenge other males that attempt to enter the best vegetated spawning sites.
- After spawning, the female extrudes from 1,500 to about 5,000 eggs in a film-like mass among the surface vegetation.
- The tadpoles overwinter under the silt and dead plants on the bottom and transform the following summer, about one year after hatching.
- The adults stay in the pond and hibernate in early autumn.
- Green Frogs eat a great variety of small land and water creatures. Beetles, bugs, spiders, ants, moth larvae and snails are the big items.

Wood Frog



- Wood Frogs and Spring Peepers are the first amphibians to emerge in spring.
- The males, which usually far outnumber the females, congregate on the surface in vegetated areas of ponds. The call is a hoarse racket like a number of ducks quacking in a distant pond. Males are vocal all night long, if temperatures are above freezing.
- Breeding is over by May in most regions. Females lay fist-sized jelly masses of about 1000 eggs.
- The tadpoles develop rapidly and transform during July and August.
- Except for breeding, Wood Frogs live in damp deciduous or mixed woods. They begin feeding after the spawning season.
- They eat a variety of insects and other small invertebrates, especially spiders, beetles, bugs, moth larvae, slugs and snails.

Northern Leopard Frog



- Leopard frogs spend a lot of time foraging in grassy places during the summer. You may see them in old fields, meadows, grassy-sedge woods roads and grassy roadside ditches.
- Leopard Frogs emerge from underwater hibernation in spring. From mid-April to mid-May the males rest, with limbs spread out, on the surface in the shallows of ponds and vegetated coves of lakes.
- Females lay about 3000 eggs in a loose oval mass in shallow water. Newly hatched tadpoles stay in a close group for some time.
- The tadpoles develop rapidly and change to frogs during July and August.
- Leopard Frogs eat many insects and other invertebrates. Since they spend so much time in grassy places, they eat a lot of agricultural pest insects. Juveniles eat aquatic insects.
- Adults return to aquatic habitats during the autumn to hibernate.

Pickerel Frog



- Pickerel frogs are especially common along streams and lake shores near inlets and outlets. They also forage along grassy-sedge woods roads, roadsides, meadows and old fields.
- Pickerel frogs emerge from hibernation in spring and breed throughout May. The male's call is a short low-pitched snore which does not carry far.
- Females produce a globular mass of about 1000 eggs attached to plants about 10 cm below the surface. These egg masses are not seen very often.
- The tadpoles mature rapidly and transform into frogs during August and early September.
- Adults hibernate under the bottom debris and silt of their aquatic habitats.
- Pickerel Frogs eat ants, spiders, bugs, beetles, sawfly larvae, moth larvae and a variety of other invertebrates.

Mink Frog



- The height of the breeding season is in July.
- Males take their place at suitable spawning sites among the surface vegetation and begin calling a mate. The male calls day and night with a repeated "cut - cut-cut" sound. When a number of frogs are vocal it sounds like a couple of carpenters nailing shingles on a house somewhere in the distance.
- Females produce about 1,000 eggs each year. The tadpoles overwinter and transform the next July and August.
- Mink Frogs are very timid. Some careful sneaking is required to get close to one. Usually all you see is the water surface breaking in a number of places as they skid off vegetation and hide underneath.
- Mink Frogs eat a variety of land and water creatures, particularly ants, beetles, bugs, moth larvae, spiders and flies.
- When picked up, they emit a smell like a mink (or rotting onions, if you can't quite recall the odour of mink).

Bull Frog



- Bull Frogs are the last amphibians to emerge in spring. Their booming bass call is heard from mid-June to July, although last year's tadpoles may emerge a month or two earlier.
- Males move out from shore and settle among the water lilies to call females.
- Spawning takes place soon after the females are grasped by males. She extrudes her eggs in a huge, film-like mass on the surface among the water lilies. Bull Frogs produce as many as 20,000 eggs each year.
- The tadpoles take two years to develop into young Bull Frogs; hind legs appear after the second winter. Tadpoles hibernate in the deep silt of the lake bottom.
- The Bull Frog season is short. By early September most are hibernating in muddy pond bottoms.
- The Bull Frog menu includes birds, other frogs, fish, even their own tadpoles, as well as the usual insects.