

# Anura of Northeastern Illinois and Northwestern Indiana, USA

## Common Frogs and Toads of the Chicago Region

WEB VERSION

Volunteer Stewardship Network – Chicago Wilderness

Photos by Mike Redmer © [http://www.mikeredmer.com/], except image 1 & 8 by John & Jane Balaban © [balx2@comcast.net].

Produced by: Jennie Kluse & R. Foster, with assistance of Laurel Ross, Alan Resetar, and Mike Redmer and support from the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation.

© Environmental & Conservation Programs, The Field Museum, Chicago, IL 60605 USA. [http://www.fnmh.org/chicagoguides/]. Chicago Wilderness Guide #2 version 1 (5/2006)



**1 *Bufo americanus***

5.1-8.0 cm

AMERICAN TOAD: warts  $\leq 3$  in dark skin patches; underside usually spotted; larger cranial crest than *B. fowleri*; call: prolonged trill. Note that skin color in most frog and toad species is variable.



**2 *Bufo americanus***

5.1-8.0 cm



**3 *Bufo fowleri***

5.1-7.2 cm

FOWLER'S TOAD: small warts  $\geq 3$  in dark skin patches; spot on chest or underside unmarked; call: bleat like sheep.



**4 *Pseudacris crucifer***

$\leq 2.9$  cm

SPRING PEEPER: dark "X" on back; enlarged toe pads; dark spot between eyes; call: high-pitched whistle; many frogs together sound like sleigh bells.



**5 *Pseudacris triseriata***

$\leq 4.0$  cm

WESTERN CHORUS FROG: three dark stripes down back; white stripe on upper jaw; no toe webbing; call: running finger over teeth of fine comb.



**6 *Acris crepitans***

$\leq 3.0$  cm

NORTHERN CRICKET FROG: toe pads small; warty skin; dark triangle between eyes; call: clicking marbles together with accending tempo.



**7 *Hyla versicolor***

$\leq 3.2$  cm

EASTERN GRAY TREEFROG: alike *H. chrysoscelis*, but chromosomes tetraploid instead of diploid; large toe pads; flash of yellow/orange under thighs; skin pattern and colors variable; call: slow musical trill.



**8 *Hyla versicolor***

$\leq 3.2$  cm



**9 *Hyla chrysoscelis***

$\leq 3.2$  cm

COPE'S GRAY TREEFROG: see *H. versicolor*; large toe pads; yellow/orange under hind leg; call: fast buzzing trill.



**10 *Rana catesbeiana***

9.0-15.0 cm

AMERICAN BULLFROG: toes webbed to tips; dorsolateral fold around tympanum only; call: deep bass croaks.



**11 *Rana clamitans***

5.7-8.9 cm

GREEN FROG: toes webbed 1/2 way to tips; dorsolateral folds reach 1/2 way down back; call: 1-3 banjo twangs.



**12 *Rana sylvatica***

3.5-5.8 cm

WOOD FROG: dark mask behind eye; dorsolateral folds reach hip; habitat: mature mesic forests; call: quiet quacking.



**13 *Rana palustris***

4.5-7.0 cm

PICKEREL FROG: 2 rows of dark rectangular marks down back; flash of yellow under thighs; habitat: cool, high quality waters; call: low snoring.



**14 *Rana pipiens***

5.0-6.9 cm

NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG: scattered dark marks with light borders down back; habitat: dense herbaceous cover, savanna; call: low snoring broken by grunts.



**15 *Rana blairi***

5.0-8.0 cm

PLAINS LEOPARD FROG: dorsolateral folds broken at lower back and inset; habitat: prairie marshland and bottomland; call: chuckle followed by cat purr.