Anura of Northeastern Illinois and Northwestern Indiana, USA
Common Frogs and Toads of the Chicago Region

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1 Bufo americanus 5.1-8.0 cm
AMERICAN TOAD: warts ≤ 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 ≤ 3 in dark skin patches; spot on chest or underside unmarked; call: bleat like sheep.

4 Pseudacris crucifer ≤ 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 ≤ 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 ≤ 3.0 cm
NORTHERN CRICKET FROG: toe pads small; warty skin; dark triangle between eyes; call: clicking marbles together with ascending tempo.

7 Hyla versicolor ≤ 3.2 cm
EASTERN GRAYTREEFROG: 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 ≤ 3.2 cm

9 Hyla chrysoscelis ≤ 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.