

# AMPHIBIAN IDENTIFIER

## FROGS AND TOADS OF ONTARIO

Illustrations are half life size.



www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond



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### American toad

- Bufo americanus* (recently changed to *Anaxyrus americanus*)
- 5.1-9 cm; record 11.1 cm
  - One or two "warts" per dark spot on body
  - White belly covered in dark spots
  - Males have a dark throat and are smaller than females
  - Call – A long 20-40 second high pitched trill



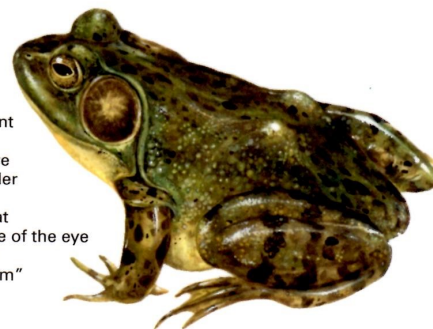
### Fowler's toad

- Bufo fowleri* (recently changed to *Anaxyrus fowleri*)
- 5.1-7.5 cm; record 9.5 cm
  - Usually three or more "warts" per dark spot on body
  - White belly not covered in dark spots
  - Only found on the northern shore of Lake Erie
  - Call – An extended nasal "Waaa...Waaa"
  - THREATENED (COSEWIC); THREATENED (OMNR)



### Bullfrog

- Rana catesbeiana* (recently changed to *Lithobates catesbeianus*)
- 9-15.2 cm; record 20.3 cm
  - Dorsolateral ridge not present
  - Green, olive or brown
  - Fold of skin extends from eye around tympanum to shoulder
  - Ontario's largest frog
  - Male has bright yellow throat and tympanum twice the size of the eye
  - Call – Deep bass call sounds like "Jug-O-Rum...Jug-O-Rum"



### Green frog

- Rana clamitans* (recently changed to *Lithobates clamitans melanotus*)
- 5.7-9 cm; record 10.8 cm
  - Dorsolateral ridge extends length of back
  - Greenish
  - Bright green upper lip
  - Dark bands on hind legs
  - Male has a yellow throat and tympanum twice the size of the eye
  - Call – Barking that sounds like plucking of a banjo string



### Leopard frog

- Rana pipiens* (recently changed to *Lithobates pipiens*)
- 5.1-9 cm; record 11.1 cm
  - Green to brown
  - Dorsolateral ridge extends length of back
  - Dark brown or black roundish spots, outlined in yellow, scattered on back and side
  - Call – Chuckling sound similar to sound made by rubbing a wet balloon



### Mink frog

- Rana septentrionalis* (recently changed to *Lithobates septentrionalis*)
- 4.8-7 cm; record 7.6 cm
  - Dorsolateral ridge does not extend the length of back
  - Olive to green back with a few scattered roundish dark spots
  - Bright green above the mouth
  - Musky odor when handled
  - No cross bands on legs
  - Call – Sounds like galloping horses or someone hammering in the distance



### Pickerel frog

- Rana palustris* (recently changed to *Lithobates palustris*)
- 4.4-7.5 cm; record 8.7 cm
  - Cream to brown
  - Dorsolateral ridge extends length of back
  - Two rows of dark squarish spots on back between dorsolateral ridges
  - Similar spots on sides
  - Groin area bright yellow to orange
  - Call – A long drawn out nasal snore



### Gray treefrog

- Hyla versicolor*
- 3.2-5.1 cm; record 6 cm
  - Light green to grey with a squarish white spot below the eye
  - Inner thigh bright orange or yellow
  - Large, expanded toe disks
  - Call – Short high-pitched bird-like trill

### Wood frog

- Rana sylvatica* (recently changed to *Lithobates sylvatica*)
- 3.5-7 cm; record 8.3 cm
  - Brown to tan
  - Triangular black face mask on each side of head
  - White line along the upper jaw
  - Usually found in woodlands
  - Call – Rolling quacking sound similar to that made by a duck



### Spring peeper

- Pseudacris crucifer*
- 1.9-3.2 cm; record 3.7 cm
  - Brown to tan
  - Dark band between the eyes
  - Dark cross-shaped mark on the back
  - Small toe disks
  - Call – A loud, short "peep...peep..."



### Boreal chorus frog

- Pseudacris triseriata maculata*
- 1.9-3.7 cm; record 3.8 cm
  - Similar in appearance to Western chorus frog
  - Only found north and west of Lake Superior to the Manitoba border
  - Call – Same as Western chorus frog



### Western chorus frog

- Pseudacris triseriata*
- 1.9-3.9 cm
  - Light brown with three dark, sometimes broken stripes down back
  - White line along upper lip
  - Dark stripe along side of body from tip of snout to groin
  - Found in Central and Southern Ontario
  - Call – Sound of fingers running along teeth of a comb
  - THREATENED (COSEWIC)

### Northern cricket frog

- Acris crepitans*
- 1.6-3.5 cm
  - Dark triangular shaped mark between the eyes
  - Red to brown with brown or black blotches
  - Horizontal stripes on the hind legs
  - Only found on Pelee Island, Lake Erie
  - Call – Like two stones being tapped together
  - ENDANGERED (COSEWIC); ENDANGERED (OMNR)





# SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS OF ONTARIO

Illustrations are half life size.

In Ontario, amphibians are protected under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Endangered Species Acts. If you find an amphibian please do not disturb it or remove it from its habitat. If you find an amphibian wandering over land in spring or early summer, it is most likely a female about to lay her eggs. Watch it, love it, but leave it! We all have a role to play in protecting wetland habitat and amphibian nesting areas. Observations help to identify important amphibian habitats. Submit sightings to Frogwatch Ontario at <http://www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/FrogwatchOntario.asp>

These amphibians are not found in all Ontario regions. Consult a field guide for maps of amphibians in your area. The size of amphibians includes U.S. populations as listed in: Roger Conant and Joseph T. Collins, *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America*, 3rd edition. Houghton Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1991.

## Eastern red-backed salamander

*Plethodon cinereus*

### Redback phase

- 5.7-10 cm; record 12.7 cm
- Distinct red to brown stripe down back
- Sides dark grey
- Belly mottled with grey
- Small lungless salamander



### Leadback phase

- Light grey to black stripe down back



## Red-spotted newt

*Notophthalmus viridescens*

- 5.7-12.2 cm; record 14 cm
- Black bordered red spots on back
- Yellow belly covered in small black spots
- Dark stripe through the eye



## Northern dusky salamander

*Desmognathus fuscus fuscus*

- 6.4-11.5 cm; record 14.1 cm
- Light eye strip extends from eye to angle of jaw; mouth-line straight
- Greyish brown; irregular brownish stripe extends down back onto tail
- Sides peppered with silver-grey; belly light coloured or cream with dark reticulations
- Tail thicker at base; wedge-shaped or triangular in cross section
- Hind legs larger than front legs
- Only found in Niagara area
- ENDANGERED (OMNR)

## Allegheny mountain dusky salamander

*Desmognathus ochropheus*

- 7-10 cm; record 11.1 cm
- Stripe from eye to corner of mouth
- Greyish brown to olive; brown back stripe that may contain dark chevron-like pattern; older individuals appear dark brown
- Rounded tail in cross section
- Hind legs larger than front legs
- Only found in Niagara area
- ENDANGERED (COSEWIC); ENDANGERED (OMNR)



## Central newt

*Notophthalmus viridescens louisianensis*

- 6.4-10 cm; record 12.5 cm
- Have darker backs and fewer spots than Red-spotted newt
- Found west of Lake Superior



## Northern two-lined salamander

*Eurycea bislineata*

- 6.4-9.5 cm; record 12.1 cm
- Yellowish stripe down back bordered by two black stripes
- Belly yellow, sides grey
- Small lungless salamander

## Four-toed salamander

*Hemidactylium scutatum*

- 5.1-9 cm; record 10.2 cm
- Tail narrows (constricted) at the base
- Rusty to red back with grey sides
- White belly is covered in black spots
- Hind foot with four toes (all other salamanders except the Mudpuppy have five toes on the hind foot)
- Small lungless salamander



## Red eft

- Terrestrial eft stage of the Red-spotted newt is orange to red with black bordered red spots, and is dark red to brown in the Central newt



## Jefferson salamander

*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*

- 10.7-18 cm; record 21 cm
- Dark brown to grey
- Bluish white flecks on sides of body and limbs
- Belly lighter grey than
- Blue spotted salamander
- Sometimes hybridizes with Blue-spotted salamander (*A. laterale*) making identification difficult.
- THREATENED (COSEWIC); THREATENED (OMNR)



## Small-mouthed salamander

*Ambystoma texanum*

- 10-14 cm; record 17.8 cm
- Black or dark brown with bluish or grey flecks on the sides
- Head is proportionally small
- Only found on Pelee Island
- ENDANGERED (COSEWIC); ENDANGERED (OMNR)

## Blue-spotted salamander

*Ambystoma laterale*

- 10-14 cm; record 16 cm
- Black with blue flecks on back, along sides and on tail
- Dark grey to black belly
- Hybridizes with Small-mouthed salamander (*Ambystoma texanum*) on Pelee Island



## Spotted salamander

*Ambystoma maculatum*

- 11.2-19.7 cm; record 24.8 cm
- Large yellow to orange spots on back and tail
- Black body

## Mudpuppy

*Necturus maculosus*

- 20-33 cm; record 48.6 cm
- Largest tailed amphibian found only in water
- Reddish brown body with black spots
- Three pairs of feathery red external gills
- Hind foot with four digits

