

Frogs & Toads

Commonly Seen by Crossing Brigades



Wood Frog

Wood frogs are seen in abundance in the EARLY spring, the first migrants to vernal pools. They are brown to reddish-brown in color and are from 1.5 - 3" long.

Look for these field marks:

Dark "bandit mask"

Dorsolateral folds

(ridges that run down the sides of the back)

Dorsolateral folds Mask



Spring Peeper

These tree frogs become abundant at road crossings in April. They are tiny, $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " long, so look carefully for them.

Look for these field marks:

tan color

X-shaped marking on back

No dorsolateral ridges



X-shaped marking

American Toad

These short-legged, slow moving hoppers are stout and warty. They range from 2 - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in length.

Look for these field marks:

Pairs of dark spots on head and back

1-2 warts within each dark spot

Large, kidney-shaped parotid gland behind each eye

Parotid glands

Pairs of dark spots



Green Frog

These aquatic frogs are sometimes seen on crossing nights. They are 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long.

Look for these field marks:

Dorsolateral folds extend down the back

Green upper lip

Warty texture on back

Green upper lip Dorsolateral folds



Frogs Sometimes Seen on Crossing Nights



Gray Tree Frog

Gray Tree Frog



Adhesive discs

This strange looking amphibian, a real tree frog, might be seen on warmer nights, especially later in the crossing season. They are most often a light gray in color, but can also be brown or green. The dark splotches on their warty skin resemble the pattern of lichens. They are small frogs, 1-2" long.

Look for these field marks:

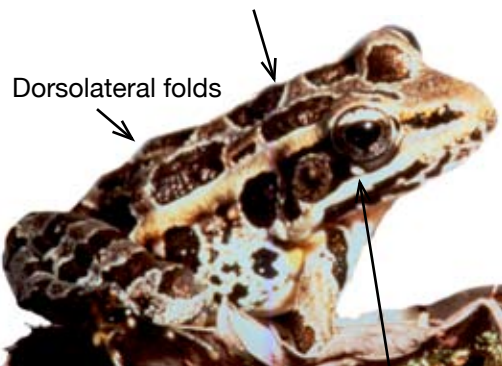
- Adhesive discs on toes
- granular (warty) texture on back
- large, dark, irregular splotch on back

Lichenate splotch on back



Gray Tree Frog

Rows of rectangular spots



Dorsolateral folds

Line above lip

Pickerel Frog

The dapper pickerel frog will be out and about on warmer rainy nights. Like the green frog, the bullfrog, and the gray tree frog, pickerel frogs are not moving toward breeding sites this early, they are just out and about. They are tan to bronze-colored and are 2-3" long.

Look for these field marks:

- White-yellow dorsolateral folds
- Two rows of squarish brown spots running down the back
- cream-colored line on upper lip

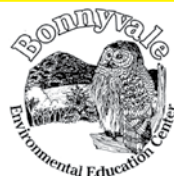
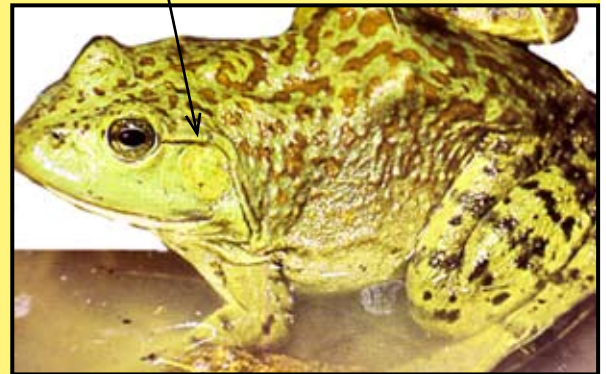
Bullfrog

Compared with our other frogs, these guys are BIG. Some adults weigh more than a pound. They are from 5 -8" long. They vary in color from olive green to greenish brown.

Look for these field marks:

- No dorsolateral ridges
- Folds behind each eye curve over eardrum (like earpieces on glasses)
- Usually dark mottling on back
- Adults 4-8 inches long

Fold over eardrum



Photos: Leo P. Kenney and BEEC staff

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center

P.O. Box 2318, West Brattleboro, VT 05303 phone: (802) 257-5785 E-mail: beec@sover.net web site: beec.org