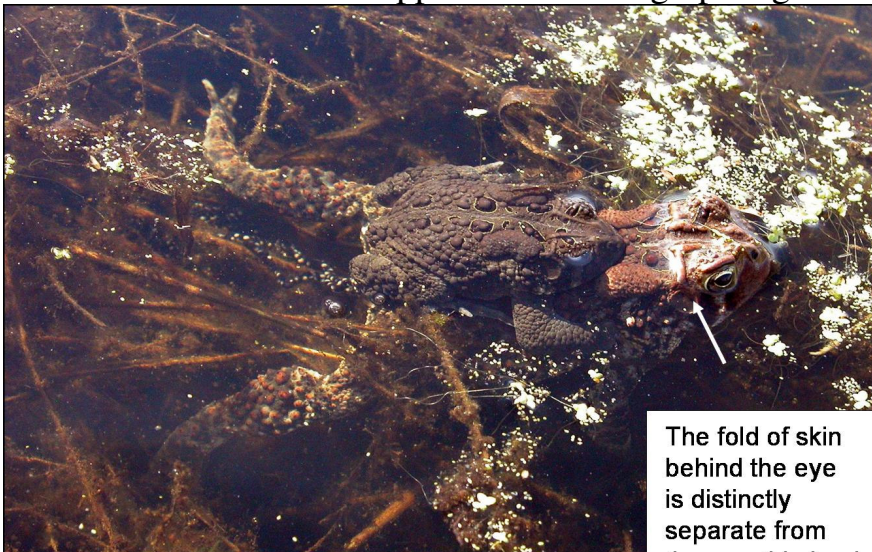


American Toad

(*Bufo americanus*)



The fold of skin behind the eye is distinctly separate from the parotid gland



This lump is the parotid gland.



Only 1 or 2 'warts' in each black spot.

Toads in general can be told from the frogs of our area by their warts. They also tend to be browner (although the Wood Frog is brownish too) and drier-skinned. They are often found in drier areas than most frogs, although, as the pictures show, they do breed in ponds.

We have two other possible toad species in our area, the Spadefoot and Fowler's Toads. The rare Spadefoot (which we have not seen in the County), with its vertical pupil, distinct coloration and small parotid gland, should be fairly obvious. The Fowler's Toad is more similar and requires closer inspection (see Fowler Toad page in this Appendix).



Sometimes more than two warts in each dark patch.



Parotoid abuts skin folds behind the eyes.



Belly without black spots

Fowler's Toad

(*Bufo fowleri*)

We have found Fowler's Toad in dry woods and grasslands near wetlands (but not yet on any working farms). We include it here because of its presence in our area and its similarity to the American Toad.

This is a southern species which reaches its northern limits in our region, extending into New York mainly along the Hudson River Valley.

Belly coloration and the number of warts per dark patch are said to be distinguishing characteristics.

Green Frog

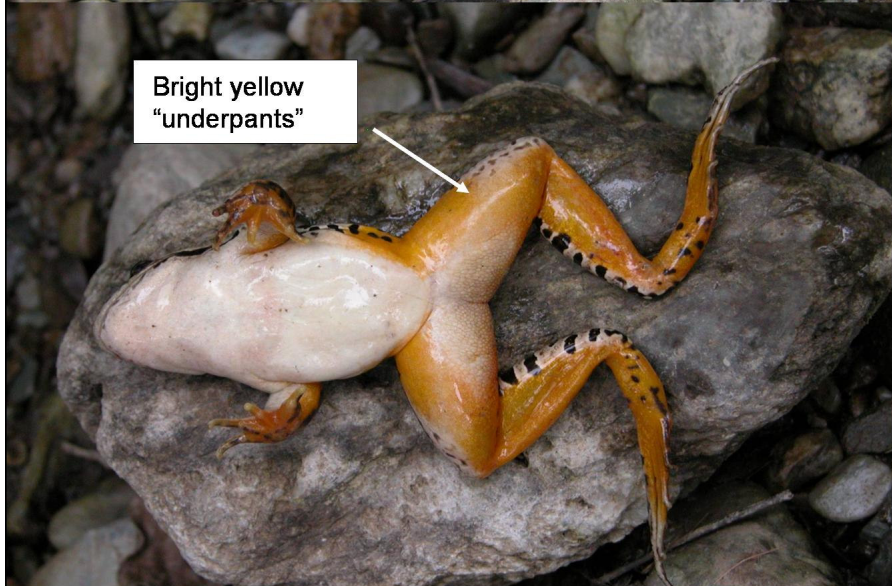
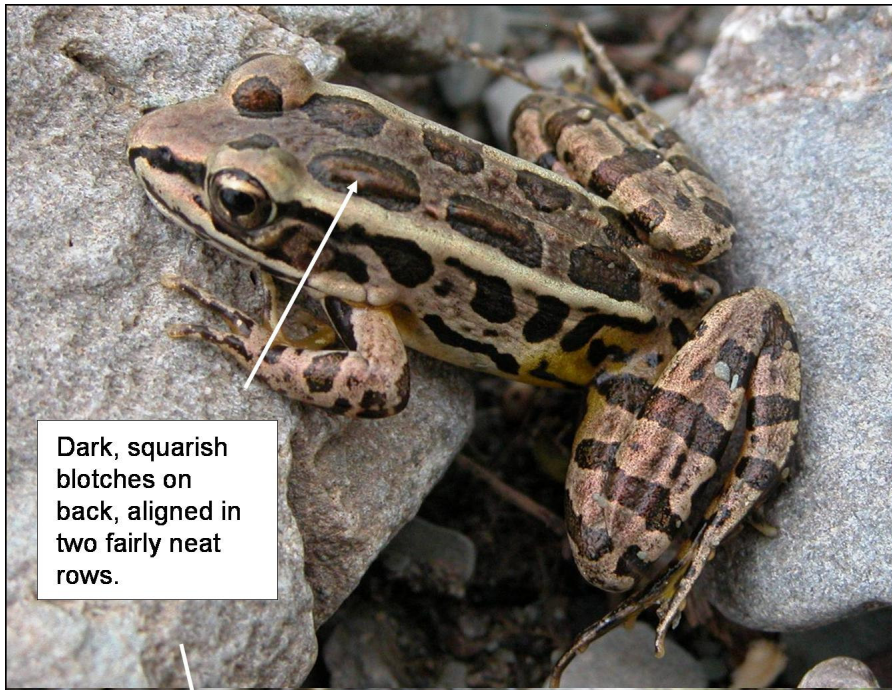
(*Rana clamitans*)

The Green Frog is our most common frog – learn to identify it and you will be able to name most frogs you see!

Green Frogs have variable coloration that is due in part to age, condition and gender.

The top photo is of a mating male – his throat is yellow, the rest of him green, and his ear drum is much larger than his eye. The female at left is younger, but the pair below provides a good comparison, male on right, female on left. The individual below shows the degree of splotching that some green frogs have. Importantly, their “splotches” are not surrounded by light margins as in Pickerel or Leopard Frogs.





Pickerel Frog

(*Rana palustris*)

Unlike any of the other frogs that we have commonly seen in our area, the Pickerel Frog has very distinct blotches surrounded by dark borders. The lateral folds of skin are lighter than the rest of the body, making for quite a trim-looking beast.

We have found this species mainly along creeks, although occasionally also around ponds. In other words, in many of the places we found the more common green frog.

The regionally rare Leopard Frog also has distinct blotches, but that species' blotches are not square nor so neatly aligned; it also doesn't have yellow underpants and its blotches have light margins.



Fold of skin beginning behind eye loops around eardrum rather than continuing down back.



Bullfrog

(*Rana catesbeiana*)

This is our largest frog; the one pictured on top was roughly 10 inches long. Of course, they need to grow to that size and, when young, can be confused with the smaller and often co-occurring Green Frog. The key characteristic is that the fold of skin that begins behind each eye wraps around the ear drum, rather than continuing down the back as in the Green Frog.

Bullfrogs were scattered in our survey area. We found them mainly by permanent ponds. They are said to be voracious predators, and their presence can exclude some other amphibian species.

Males have large eardrums which abut the eyes; the individuals pictured here all appear to be females.



Dark Maks



Egg clusters

Wood Frog

(*Rana sylvatica*)

This is our flagship vernal pool frog. They gather en masse in early spring for a brief mating period, leaving the distinctive clumps of eggs seen below.

Their dark mask is characteristic, although given variation in the brownish hue of the body, it is sometimes more or less conspicuous.

A horizontal dark line across iris



Spring Peeper

(*Pseudacris crucifer*)

This was the most common frog in our surveys. Its tiny size belies its powerful peep, which announces its presence. We found them almost anywhere there was a pool or pond.

The only other adult frog with which they might be mistaken is the small Northern Cricket Frog, an endangered species in New York and one that we never saw. The Peeper has a characteristic (although sometimes broken) "X" on its back and a dark horizontal line across the eye. The Cricket Frog tends to have a green or brown patch on its back, rougher skin, a dark triangle on the back of its head, and a vertical line through the iris.



"X" marks the species



A Peeper peeping



Grey Treefrog

(Hyla versicolor)

This frog was occasionally abundant in our surveys. Its color is quite variable, ranging from green when young through shades of grey and tan as adults. Bigger than a Peeper, smaller than our other frogs, their most distinctive characteristic may be the yellow on the undersides of the legs (partially visible below). Also, as with Peepers but none of our other frogs, the toes of this species end in sucker-like enlargements which presumably help it grip vegetation.

