

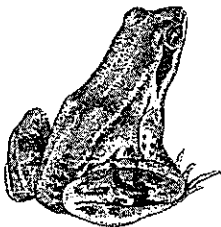


Frogs & Toads of East Tennessee

Amphibians are very sensitive to changes in their environments, in particular, the water quality of their habitat: creeks and ponds. Because of this they serve as excellent indicators of overall environmental health. Consequently, the more kinds you can see or hear around your neighborhood the better.

What's the difference between frogs and toads?

Frogs tend to spend most of their lives in or near water. They generally have smooth skin and long hind legs. Toads have rougher, more lumpy and bumpy skin. They are able to spend most of their adult life on drier land, away from water. Also, a toad's hind legs are shorter. Because of this toads hop and while frogs tend to leap.



Both frogs and toads must go to the nearest water to lay their eggs. It is during mating season that they are most vocal and easiest to find. As with birds, male frogs and toads call to attract females to their pond.

Below is a list of the 13 different species of frogs and toads that are known to live in the Tennessee Valley.

Frogs & Toads

Species	Most often heard	Call
Family Bufonidae: True toads		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Toad	Feb-Apr	High-pitched soft trill
<input type="checkbox"/> Fowler's Toad	Mar-Jul	Sounds like baby crying, "waaaaah"
Family Pelobatidae: Spadefoot toads		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Spadefoot	Mar-Sep	Explosive "Errrr..."
Family Hylidae: Treefrogs		
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Chorus Frog	Feb-May	Rapid series of clicks
<input type="checkbox"/> Spring Peeper	Feb-Apr	Bird-like peeps
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cricket Frog	Apr-Aug	Sounds like two pebbles being tapped together
<input type="checkbox"/> Cope's Gray Treefrog	Mar-Aug	Raspy trill
Family Microhylidae: Narrowmouth toad		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Narrow-Mouthed Toad	Apr-Oct	Sounds like bleating sheep, nasal "beeeeee..."
Family Ranidae: True frogs		
<input type="checkbox"/> Southern Leopard Frog	Mar-Jun	Clucks:1,2,3,4,5; like thumb rubbing inflated balloon
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Frog	Feb-Mar	Random series of quacks like a duck
<input type="checkbox"/> Pickerel Frog	Mar-May	Low-pitched snore, "yeeeeeeowwww..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Frog	Mar-Aug	Sounds like banjo string being plunked, "Glunk"
<input type="checkbox"/> American Bullfrog	May-Jul	Loud deep "jug-o-rum"

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