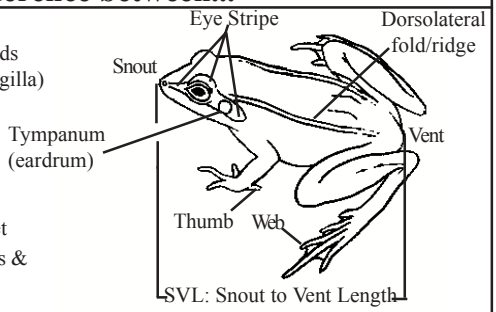
FROGS & TOADS OF NEVADA *(Not to scale;not all NV species included)*

How to tell the difference between...

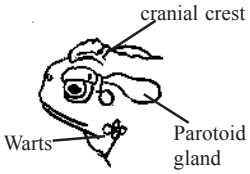
Frogs

- Usually have dorsolateral folds
- Pointed toes (except for P. regilla)
- Large typanums (eardrums)
- Long legs
- Leapers
- No paratoid glands
- Ranids have webbed rear feet

"Water dwellers with long legs & slimy skin."
National Audubon Society



Toads



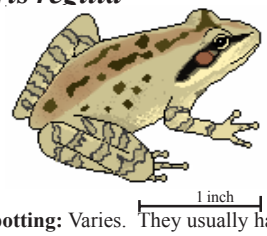
- Plump bodies
- Short legs
- Dry, warty skin
- Rounded faces
- Large parotoid glands
- Hoppers/walkers

"Short, squat land-lubbers with dry, warty skin."
National Audubon Society

Note: Color varies greatly within species. DO NOT use color as your main indicator.

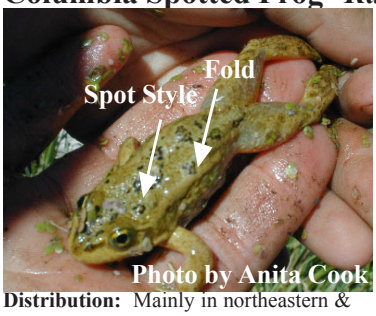
NOTE: CHECK NDOW REGULATIONS BEFORE MOVING OR COLLECTING ANY AMPHIBIANS (www.ndow.org). Special permits or licenses may be required (NRS 504.295, NAC 504.461, NAC 503.135).

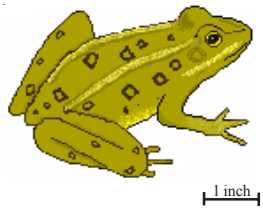
Pacific Chorus Frog--*Pseudacris regilla*



Distribution: Spotty statewide.
Size: Small <2 in. SVL
Color: Varies widely (an individual may change from one color to another); most often green or gray, but also brown or black. Dark stripe running through the eye usually. White underbelly.
Spotting: Varies. They usually have dorsal markings (as above) but they may be absent.
Look for: Eye stripe (usually) and toepads.
Habitat: Wide variety: grasslands, chaparral, woodlands, forests, desert oases and farmland; often far from water bodies.
Call: A loud two part "kreck-ek" that is high pitched and may be uttered in sequence, usually at night.

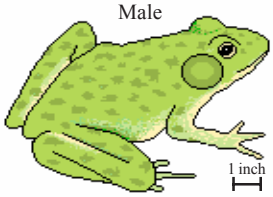
Columbia Spotted Frog--*Rana luteiventris*





Distribution: Mainly in northeastern & central Nevada.
Size: Medium F < 4 in. SVL; M < 3 in. SVL
Color: Varies: tan, gray, brown, reddish-brown, or red. Underside usually yellow. Light stripe on the upper jaw.
Spotting: Irregular-shaped black spots with indistinct edges and light centers.
Look for: *Head:* Dorsolateral fold/ridges usually present. Upturned eyes. *Body:* Extensive webbing between the toes of the hind feet. Relatively short hind legs.
Habitat: Mountainous areas near cold streams and lakes.
Call: VERY weak; lacks amplifying sacs.

Bullfrog--*Rana catesbeiana*

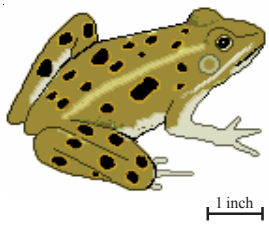


Distribution: Spotty statewide—**NON-NATIVE.**
Size: Large < 9 in. SVL
Color: Usually dull green, but may be brownish; some specimens dark gray to black. Underside often ranges from shades of white to yellow.
Spotting: Markings, if any, on dorsal surface have no distinct borders.
Look for: *Head:* In females the tympanic membrane is roughly equal to the size of the eye; in males it will be considerably larger. *Body:* Little to no dorsolateral ridges (smooth back).
Habitat: Ponds, lakes and slow-moving streams with vegetative cover.
Call: Familiar, deep "jug-o'-rum."

Northern Leopard Frog--*Rana pipiens*

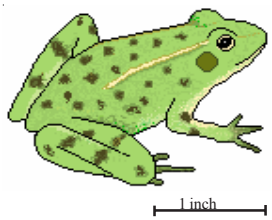
Spotted Morph

Unspotted (Burnsi) Morph



Distribution: Isolated locations in E. NV and extreme W. NV
Size: Medium <3 ½ in. SVL
Color: Green, brown, or both.
Spotting: Dark, circular spots with halos irregularly placed throughout the body. Some rare morphs have NO spots.
Look for: *Body:* Has two, light-colored dorsolateral folds (lines of raised glandular skin in an area between the back and the sides), upper lip stripe.
Habitat: Heavily vegetated freshwater to brackish marshes and moist fields; from desert to mountain meadow.
Call: Snore-like rattle interspersed with a sound like that of rubbing an inflated balloon. Calls both day and night.

Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog--*Rana muscosa*



Distribution: N. Sierra Nevada—Rare.
Size: Small <3 in. SVL
Color: Light to dark-brown. Undersides range from a cream color to brilliant yellow. Has dusky toe tips.
Spotting: Black or dark brown splotches.
*Male frogs can smell strongly of garlic during the breeding season.
Habitat: Sunny stream banks and undisturbed ponds and lakes. Adults highly aquatic; rarely found more than a few hops from water.
Call: Short and rasping, often rises in pitch and accelerates at the end. Call is rarely heard.

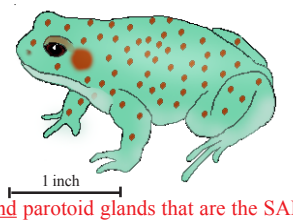
Relict Leopard Frog--*Rana onca*

Distribution: Southern Nevada, near Lake Mead, along Colorado River—Very limited.
Similar species in NV: Northern Leopard Frog, but *R. onca* usually smaller, with shorter legs (heel of leg extended along side of body usually does not reach tip of snout).
Size: Medium <3 ½ in. SVL.
Color: Brown, gray, or greenish above. Whitish below, sometimes with gray or brown mottling, especially on throat.
Spotting: Has brown spots that are often reduced or obscure on front of body and few or absent on the head.
Look for: *Body:* Indistinct dorsolateral folds end well before groin.
Habitat: Frequents lowland streamsides and springs in areas surrounded by desert. Usually found in or near water.

FROGS & TOADS OF NEVADA *(Not to scale; not all NV species included)*

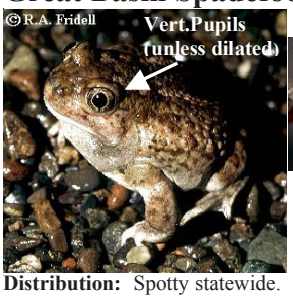
Note: Color varies greatly within species. DO NOT use color as your main indicator.

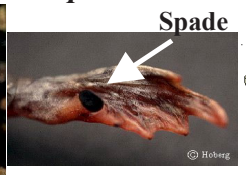
Red-Spotted Toad--*Bufo punctatus*

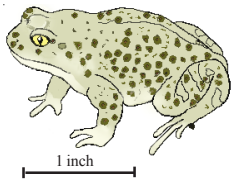


Distribution: Southern Nevada.
Size: Small 1 ½-3 in. SVL
Color: *Back:* ranges from various shades of brown to gray with scattered red spots. No mid-dorsal stripe.
Look for: *Head:* The ONLY toad with round parotoid glands that are the SAME SIZE AS THE EYES.
Habitat: Found in rocky areas, using crevises to hide; desert springs, seeps, and flood plains of rivers.
Call: Long (6-10 secs.), high-pitched musical trill, which may drop in pitch at the end. Higher pitch than call of the Southwestern Toad. Calls mostly at night.

Great Basin Spadefoot--*Spea intermontana*

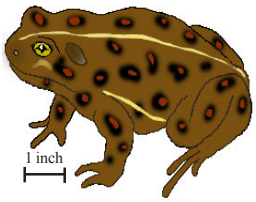






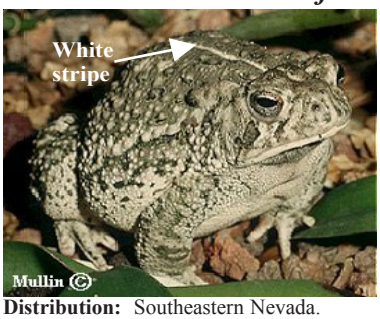
Distribution: Spotty statewide.
Size: Small < 2 in. SVL
Color: Ash-gray streaks usually set off gray or olive hourglass marking on back; underside cream or white without markings; bumpy skin, but not as "warty" as *B. boreas*.
Skin: Small bumps, dark brown/reddish; also has other spots/patches of color that aren't raised.
Look for: *Head:* Pupils are vertical (not evident when dilated); eyes are very large, golden yellow, set on side of head. Tympanum small, inconspicuous. Has a bump between the eyes. Paratoid glands indistinct or absent. *Body:* Rather plump; short, stubby limbs.
* Has well developed turbercle ("**spade**") on the bottom of the 1st toe of the hind foot.

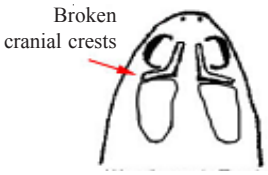
Western Toad--*Bufo boreas*



Distribution: Spotty statewide.
Size: Large <5 in. SVL
**Metamorphs* can be as small as ½ inch, and their middorsal stripe may be very faint to non-existent.
Color: Gray to green, usually with light middorsal stripe running down the back.
Skin: Warts are set in dark blotches and are sometimes a red or rust color.
Look for: *Head:* No cranial crests (raised ridges between the eyes).
Habitat: Near springs, streams, meadows and woodlands.
Call: Like weak peeping of baby chicks. No vocal sacs. Call rarely heard.

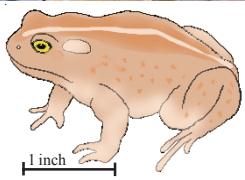
Woodhouse's Toad--*Bufo woodhousii*





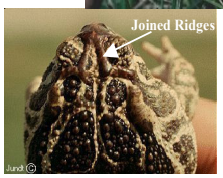
Distribution: Southeastern Nevada.
Size: Large <4 in. SVL
Color: Usually grayish or yellow with prominent white stripe down back.
Look for: *Head:* Thick head; rounded snout. Large parotoid glands. Large broken cranial crests between eyes that touch parotid glands (see diagram). *Body:* Wide waist (hockey puck appearance); short hind legs.
*Interbreeds with *B. microscaphus*.
Habitat: Sandy areas near marshes, irrigation ditches, backyards and temporary rain pools.
Call: Like the bleat of a sheep with a cold. Males call while sitting in quiet water.

Southwestern Toad--*Bufo microscaphus*



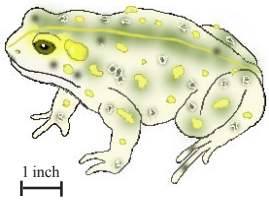
Distribution: Southern Nevada.
Size: Medium 2-3 in. SVL
Color: Olive to brown to pink, often with light stripe/patch on head and back which may be dim/absent. With or without spots.
Look for: *Head:* No cranial crests; parotoid glands oval and lighter colored in front.
*Interbreeds with *B. woodhousii.*
Habitat: Loose gravelly areas of streams and arroyos or sandy banks of quiet waters.
Call: Musical trill that ends abruptly after 10 sec.

Great Plains Toad--*Bufo cognatus*



Distribution: Southeastern Nevada.
Size: Large <4 ½ in. SVL
Color: *Back:* Gray to olive brown. Distinct symmetrically paired dark patches have a white/cream-colored border. *Belly:* White or cream with no spots. There is little variation in the color pattern except some specimens having cleaner markings and brighter patches versus dull ones.
Look for: *Head:* Cranial crests converge at snout to form a prominent bump ("boss"). Behind the eyes, the crests meet elongate parotoid glands. *See above.*
Habitat: Grasslands of the prairie and drier bushy areas.
Call: High-pitched, almost metallic trill.

Amargosa Toad--*Bufo nelsoni*



Distribution: Found **only** in Oasis Valley, Southern Nevada—Very limited.
Size: Medium Females: <5 in. SVL Males: <4 in.
Color: *Back:* buffy to olive with numerous spots and specks between the warts. *Belly:* whitish with scattered black blotches (more pronounced in juveniles). *Throat:* white to yellowish. *Mid-dorsal stripe:* olive to yellow or white. *Parotoid glands:* distinctly colored from surroundings.
Skin: Warty, but with smooth skin between the warts.
Look for: *Head:* Snout protracted and pointed in profile. No cranial crests. *Body*: Webs of hind feet very large; soles rather smooth; limbs short, knees and elbows not large.
Habitat: Near springs, streams, meadows and woodlands.
Call: Generally considered absent except for warning chuckles during breeding season or gentle peeping release calls from males during handling.

4/4/03

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