

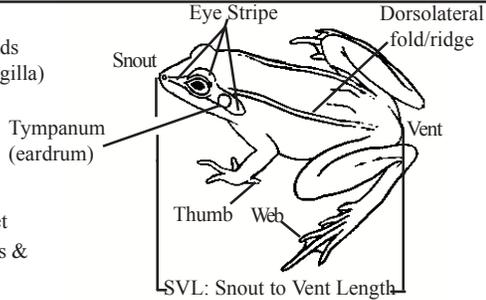
FROGS & TOADS OF NEVADA (Not to scale; not all NV species included)

How to tell the difference between...

Frogs

- Usually have dorsolateral folds
- Pointed toes (except for *P. regilla*)
- Large tympanums (eardrums)
- Long legs
- Leapers
- No paratoid glands
- Ranids have webbed rear feet
- "Water dwellers with long legs & slimy skin."

National Audubon Society

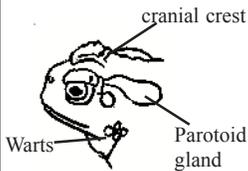


Toads

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

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

National Audubon Society



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.

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.

Bullfrog--*Rana catesbeiana*

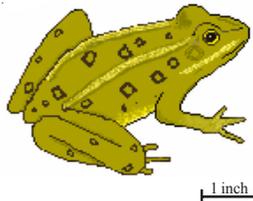


Distribution: Spotty statewide—**NON-NATIVE**.
Size: Large <9 in. SVL
Color: Usually dull green, but may be brownish; some specimens dark gray to black. Underside often ranges from shades of white to yellow.

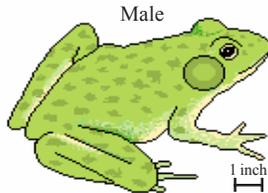


Spotting: Varies. They usually have dorsal markings (as above) but they may be absent.

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.



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.



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."

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).

Northern Leopard Frog--*Rana pipiens*

Spotted Morph



Unspotted (Burnsi) Morph



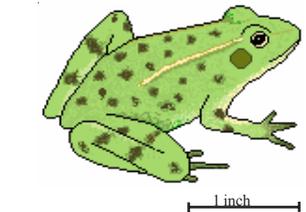
Distribution: Isolated locations in E. NV and extreme W. NV
Size: Medium <3 1/2 in. SVL
Color: Green, brown, or both.
Spotting: Dark, circular spots with halos irregularly placed throughout the body. Some rare morphs have NO spots.
Look for: Body: Has two, light-colored dorsolateral folds (lines of raised 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 1/2 in. SVL.



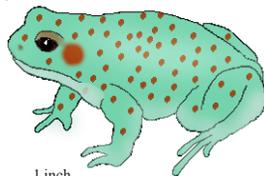
Color: Brown, gray, or greenish above. Whitish below, sometimes with gray or brown mottling, especially on throat.
Spotting: Has brown spots that are often reduced or obscure on front of body and few or absent on the head.
Look for: Body: Indistinct dorsolateral folds end well before groin.
Habitat: Frequents lowland streambanks 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)

Red-Spotted Toad--*Bufo punctatus*



© R.A. Fridell



1 inch
round parotoid glands that are the SAME SIZE AS THE EYES.

Habitat: Found in rocky areas, using crevices 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.

Distribution: Southern Nevada.

Size: Small 1 1/2-3 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

Great Basin Spadefoot--*Spea intermontana*

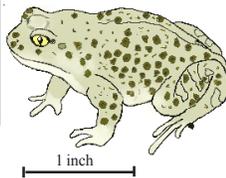


© R.A. Fridell

Vert. Pupils (unless dilated)



Spade



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. Parotoid glands indistinct or absent. Body: Rather plump; short, stubby limbs.

* Has well developed tubercle ("spade") on the bottom of the 1st toe of the hind foot.

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*.

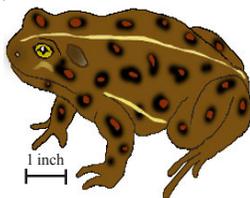
Skin: Small bumps, dark brown/reddish; also has other spots/patches of color that

Western Toad--*Bufo boreas*



R.A. Fridell ©

Light stripe



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.

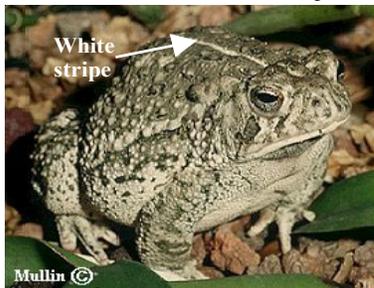
Call: Like weak peeping of baby chicks. No vocal sacs. Call rarely heard.

Distribution: Spotty statewide.

Size: Large < 5 in. SVL

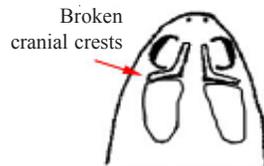
*Metamorphs can be as small as 1/2 inch, and their middorsal stripe may be very faint to non-existent.

Woodhouse's Toad--*Bufo woodhousii*



R.A. Fridell ©

White stripe



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.

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

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

Southwestern Toad--*Bufo microscaphus*

Stripe often dim or absent



Breck Bartholomew



John Sullivan

Distribution: Southern Nevada.

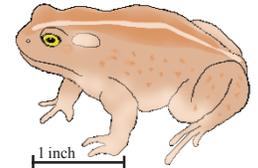
Size: Medium 2-3 in. SVL

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.

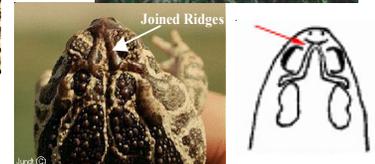
Great Plains Toad--*Bufo cognatus*



© Jundt



Belly: cream or white - no spots



Joined Ridges

Distribution: Southeastern Nevada.

Size: Large < 4 1/2 in. SVL

Color: Back: Gray to olive brown.

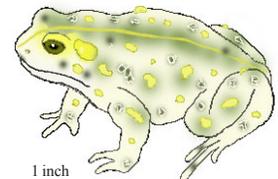
Distinct symmetrically paired dark patches have a white/cream-colored border. Belly: White or cream with no spots. There is little variation in the color pattern except some specimens having cleaner markings and brighter patches versus dull ones.

Look for: Head: Cranial crests converge at snout to form a prominent bump

Amargosa Toad--*Bufo nelsoni*



© Mike Burroughs



1 inch

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.

Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
(775) 688-1500
www.ndow.org