

Adult males have a head and body length of 6 to 8 cm, averaging slightly smaller than the females whose length ranges from 6 to 9 cm.

The American Toad hibernates in dry well-drained soil, returning to ditches and ponds to mate each spring. The loud trilling calls of males are heard from May to early July. Eggs are laid in long strings, which may hatch in as little as a few days. The tadpole stage lasts about two months. Newly transformed toads are tiny (about 1 cm long) and first appear in early July. As adults toads usually do not live in or near water, but do seek out cool moist locations. They are often seen around farms and

gardens where they feed on insects and other invertebrates. Toads are abundant on P.E.I.

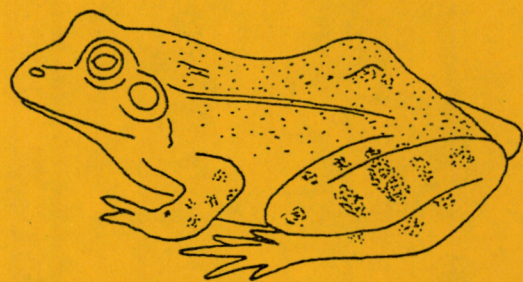
2. Spring Peeper (Hyla crucifer)

Spring Peepers are brownish in colour with irregular black markings on the back and legs. They are most easily recognized by the adhesive pads on their toes and their tiny size (3 - 3.5 cm in length). Males have darker throats than females. Spring Peepers are familiar to everyone as the musicians responsible for the night time chorus in the grass and bushes surrounding spring ponds and ditches. Singing extends from late April to early July.



During winter Spring Peepers hibernate under logs or woodland debris or under pond bottoms. Eggs are laid singly, attached to vegetation at the bottom of a pond. They usually hatch quickly and tadpoles take about three months to transform into adults. After the spring breeding season, adults leave the ponds and spend the summer living in small trees and bushes, aided in climbing by their adhesive toes. Damp woods, orchards or tree-shaded marshes are good places to look for them. They eat flies and other small flying insects. Spring Peepers are abundant on the Island.

3. Green Frog (Rana clamitans)



The Green Frog ranges in colour from green to brown. Dark markings vary in size and distribution and barring is often present on the hind legs. A narrow raised ridge runs down each side of the back. Male Green Frogs have yellow throats while those of females are white. Body length ranges from 7 to 10 cm.

Green Frogs prefer permanent ponds such as quarry ponds and millponds. They hibernate beneath these in winter to emerge in late April. Breeding lasts from late May to mid-August. Their mating call resembles the twang of a banjo string. Egg masses are laid on the surface of the water, often entangled among emergent vegetation. Eggs take up to a month to hatch. Tadpoles do not transform into adults until the following year. Green Frogs eat insects and young frogs. They are quite common across the province.