

carbon-dioxide to the surrounding air. Due to this system of air exchange, this species is particularly susceptible to drying or heat. It is thought to be restricted to woodland habitat. Cook (1984) indicates this species is abundant in white pine, northern hemlock or deciduous woodland. It has been noted to occur in larch stands on the Island but many more observations are required to delineate which forest covertypes are used by this species.

TOADS AND FROGS

The toads and frogs are collectively known as the order Anura. Five species have been collected on Prince Edward Island and positively identified. These are the American Toad (*Bufo americanus americanus* Holbrook), the Spring Peeper (*Hyla crucifer crucifer* Wied); Wood Frog (*Rana sylvatica* Le Conte), the Northern Leopard Frog (*R. pipiens* Schreber), and the Green Frog (*R. clamitans melanota* Rafinesque). Four other species have been reported in adjacent provinces but have never been positively identified on the Island. These are the Gray Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*), the Bullfrog (*R. catesbeiana*), the Pickerel Frog (*R. palustris* Le Conte), and the Mink Frog (*R. septentrionalis* Baird). The first four species can be separated with the following key.

Characteristic	Species
1. Having a black eye mask	Wood Frog.
1. Not having a black eye mask	Go to number 2.
2. Having a diagonal cross on back	Spring Peeper.
2. Not having a diagonal cross on back	Go to number 3.
3. Having warts and a parotid gland*	American Toad
3. Not having warts and a parotid gland	Go to number 4.
4. Having a green yellowish, or black back with indistinct, irregular spots	Green Frog.
4. Having a green back with rounded or oval spots with light edges sometimes touching	Northern Leopard Frog

* parotid glands - a pair of wartlike, external glands located on the shoulder, neck, or behind the eye.

TOADS

The Toad in Prince Edward Island is a terrestrial animal which returns to fresh water each spring to breed. Its eggs are laid in two long strings, one from each oviduct. The toads select temporary ponds, shallow ditches, ponds, and slow moving water in rivers for breeding. The eggs hatch to produce tadpoles which are black above and below, have their eyes close together on top of the head, have horny beaks and usually have two rows of teeth on the upper lip and three on the lower lip. The tadpoles grow quickly and, depending on water temperature and food abundance, the tadpole transforms into a tiny toads called toadlets in late June to August. These toadlets are less than 2/5 inch (1 cm.) long and grow very rapidly until fall when they may have tripled in size. They hibernate for the winter and resume growth in the following year. After another hibernation period, the toad will return to water to breed.