

Treefrogs usually are slim waisted and have relatively long legs with circular disks placed on an extra toe segment for climbing. Their tadpoles have eyes which protrude from the side of the head giving them a pop-eyed appearance.

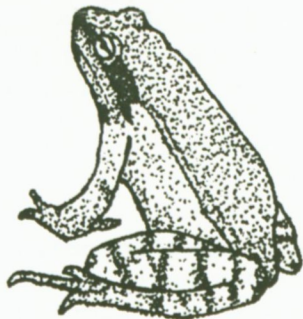
The males precede the females to the breeding ponds in early spring where they start calling vigorously. Following mating, the female lays 800 to 1,300 $1/25$ inch (0.1 cm.) eggs more or less separately on underwater vegetation. These tiny eggs hatch in 5 to 15 days and over a period of 75 to 90 days develop into the $1\ 1/3$ inches (3.4 cm.) long tadpoles which transform into young peepers $3/5$ inch (1.5 cm.) long. The young peepers take three to four years to reach sexual maturity. Adults can reach a length of $1\ 3/8$ inches (3.6 cm.).

TRUE FROGS

The true frogs can easily be separated from the treefrogs and toads as they do not have parotid glands, toe discs, or hind foot spades. They do have a distinct membrane covered hearing organ (ear) or tympanum, their pupils are round or horizontally elongated, and their hind feet are webbed. The tadpoles or polliwogs of these species range in size from 2 inches to 6 inches (5.1 cm to 15 cm.) and they have well developed tail fins and thick usually greenish, olive-green, or black bodies often mottled or flecked with light marks or spots. The eyes are located fairly close together so that they appear well within the head when viewed from above.

WOOD FROG

This species is the only known member of the brown frog group of the true frogs on Prince Edward Island. These frogs all have dorsolateral folds and a dark eye mask extending from the snout to over the ear drums. The Wood Frog is the smallest of these with the maximum size not exceeding $2\ 1/4$ inches (6.5 cm) in Canada. The base colour of these frog ranges from pink to brown to black but is never green.



wood frog

The Wood Frog is found in moist woodlands and can wander quite widely from water. It breeds in temporary and permanent fresh water ponds where the quacking call of this species' mating song is usually heard even before the ice is off the pond. Mating commences as soon as the ice clears and, as with most early breeding true frogs, the eggs are usually laid in globular masses attached to vegetation below the surface of the water. Egg development is closely related to water temperature and is probably faster in temporary ponds which warm up faster than deep permanent waters. The eggs are quite sensitive to temperature caused death or deformity and this species, which has the most northern distribution of all the true frogs, has the greatest ability to withstand low temperatures and the highest sensitivity to higher temperatures. Cook (1967) noted the first