

Long-toed Salamander

Ambystoma macrodactylum

- Yellow or olive-green stripe from head to tip of tail; may be broken into a series of blotches
- Fine white or bluish flecks on sides and legs
- Long fourth toe on each hind foot
- Background colour: brownish-grey to black
- Total length: up to 15 cm



photo: John P. Clare

Tiger Salamander

Ambystoma mavortium

- Dark spots and stripes often creating a net-like pattern; may become relatively uniform in colour and spotted with age
- Broad and flat head, with small eyes
- Background colour: yellow-brown, grey, olive-green to black
- Total length: up to 25 cm



photo: ACA, Kris Kendell



Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program



TRUE FROGS *Family Ranidae*

Northern Leopard Frog

Lithobates pipiens

- White or cream-coloured ridges of skin (dorsolateral folds) along sides of back
- Large round or oval dark spots with light borders
- Background colour: green to brown or tan; rarely golden
- Body length: up to 13 cm
- Call: three or more snore-like sounds followed by interspersed grunting and chuckling sounds



photo: ACA, Kris Kendell

Wood Frog

Lithobates sylvaticus

- Dark eye mask extends from snout through eye, ending behind eardrum; contrasts sharply with whitish jaw stripe
- Ridges of skin (dorsolateral folds) along sides of back
- May have light stripe down middle of back
- Background colour: brown, pink-tan, olive-green, grey to almost black
- Body length: up to 8 cm
- Call: series of short, raspy duck-like quacking sounds



photo: Twan Leenders

Columbia Spotted Frog

Rana luteiventris

- Small irregular dark spots with light centers
- Underside of hind legs and lower belly becomes orange-red or pinkish with age
- Ridges of skin (dorsolateral folds) along sides of back
- Eyes positioned towards top of head and angled upwards
- Background colour: light to dark brown
- Body length: up to 10 cm
- Call: series of quick low-pitched click sounds



photo: Richard D. Sage

Boreal Toad

Anaxyrus boreas

- Large reddish-brown warts often set in dark blotches
- Raised oval-shaped parotoid gland behind each eye
- Two knob-like projections (tubercles) on underside of each hind foot
- May have light stripe down middle of back
- Lacks ridges (cranial crests) on top of head
- Background colour: olive-green, grey, red, brown to almost black
- Body length: up to 13 cm
- Call: quiet series of soft whistles or chirping sounds

TRUE TOADS (TOP OF HEAD)



photo: John Cossel

Great Plains Toad

Anaxyrus cognatus

- V-shaped ridges (cranial crests) on top of head, meet to form a bump (boss) on snout, and diverge around back of each eye; appear with age
- Dark blotches with pale-borders, each with small warts
- Raised oval-shaped parotoid gland behind each eye
- Two knob-like projections (tubercles) on underside of each hind foot
- May have light stripe down middle of back
- Background colour: light brown-grey to olive
- Body length: up to 12 cm
- Call: loud, metallic-sounding trill, which may last up to a minute



photo: Jack Goldfarb

Canadian Toad

Anaxyrus hemiophrys

- Parallel ridges (cranial crests) on top of head, sometimes meet to form a bump (boss); appear with age
- Large reddish-brown warts
- Raised oval-shaped parotoid gland behind each eye
- Two knob-like projections (tubercles) on underside of each hind foot
- May have light stripe down middle of back
- Background colour: brown, olive-green to grey
- Body length: up to 8 cm
- Call: loud high-pitched trill, which may last several seconds

UNDERSIDE OF HIND FOOT



photo: Douglas R. Collicutt

TREEFROGS Family Hylidae

Boreal Chorus Frog

Pseudacris maculata

- Dark stripe runs from snout through eye, then down along flank
- Skin appears somewhat grainy in texture
- Small round toe tips
- Three dark stripes on back; stripes may be broken, reduced to spots or absent
- Lacks ridges of skin (dorsolateral folds) on back
- Background colour: grey to brown to green
- Body length: up to 4 cm
- Call: vibrant, repeated "prreep", each call with rising inflection



photo: Kory G. Roberts

SPADEFOOT TOADS Family Scaphiopodidae

Plains Spadefoot

Spea bombifrons

- Vertical cat-like pupils in bright light
- Small warts often tipped with yellow or orange
- Single, glossy, black sharp-edged projection ("spade") on underside of each hind foot
- Pronounced bump (boss) on top of head
- Lacks parotoid gland behind each eye
- Background colour: pale grey, brown to dull green
- Body length: up to 6 cm
- Call: loud, short, rapidly repeated duck-like sound

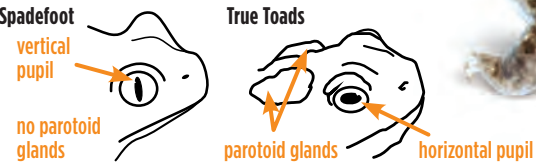
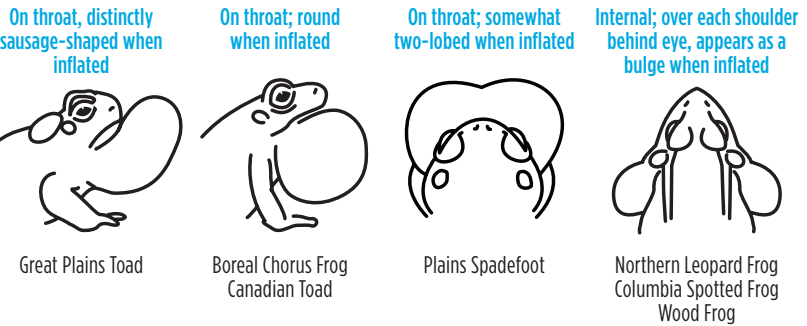


photo: Richard D. Sage

Get involved in amphibian conservation by learning about the amphibians living in your community and sharing frog, toad and salamander sightings with Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program (AVAMP for short) www.ab-conservation.com/avamp

SHAPE AND POSITION OF DISTENDED VOCAL SACS (Boreal toad lacks vocal sac)



Scan the QR code to hear calls and for information about eggs and larvae, viewing tips and how to submit sightings online

Map data provided by Fish and Wildlife Management Information System, Alberta Environment and Parks
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