



Fowler's Toad Photo by Linda May

"Froggin' By Ear"

at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center

Frog Species	Call Type	Other Notes
American Toad	Long musical trill	Usually has no more than one wart in each spot. Variable color. Larger than Fowler's Toad. Large paratoid gland doesn't touch cranial crest like it does in Fowler's. Breeds in winter & early spring in the northern half of Georgia.
Barking Treefrog	Distant dog barking sound, like a pack of hunting hound dogs	Largest treefrog in GA. Changes colors & patterns. Granular, rough skin. Ragged white side stripe. Easily handled (seems to like people).
Bird-Voiced Treefrog	Whistley, like calling a dog.	Looks a lot like a Gray Treefrog, but has a green groin (inner thigh) rather than yellow.
Bullfrog	Jug-uh-rum	The largest frog in North America (8+ inches). Legs are commonly eaten.
Carpenter Frog	Echo sound of someone hammering; galloping	In acidic bogs areas in South GA (Okefenokee)
Cope's Gray Treefrog	Harsh, quick, low- to medium-pitched trill	Breeds in fishless water, even in swimming pools (but eggs won't hatch out there). Yellow color in groin (vs. green color on Bird-Voiced Treefrog).
Eastern Narrowmouth Toad	More buzzy & nasally than Fowler's, like a bleating lamb	Has smooth, moist skin. Short hind limbs, so it doesn't leap. No toe webbing. Folds of skin behind its eyes protects toad from ants & termites while eating.
Eastern Spadefoot Toad	Belch-like, vomit-sounding call	Spends most of its life underground & only come out with 2-3" of rain. Explosive breeders in fishless, temporary pools when 55°F and warmer.
Fowler's Toad	"Weeenk...." Sheep-like, long & nasally	Lives in a wide variety of habitats. Usually has 3 or more warts in each spot (vs. 1 wart per spot in American Toad).
Gopher Frog	Eerie snoring sound	Lives in sandy uplands and comes to water to breed
Green Frog	Untuned banjo string	Has dorso-lateral ridges down the sides of its back.
Green Treefrog	Nasally duck-like call	Georgia's state amphibian. Has smoother skin than Barking Treefrog with bolder white side stripes.
Greenhouse Frog	Insect-like chirps	Not native, accidental import along with tropical plants. Eggs hatch out directly to frogs (tadpoles hatch inside eggs).
Little Grass Frog	High-pitched insect-like "tinkling" sound	A type of chorus frog. Smaller than a dime. Only found in South GA.
Northern/Southern Cricket Frog	2 marbles hitting each other ~ Northern is less rhythmic than Southern	About ½" long. Has a dark triangle on top of its head, between its eyes.
Oak Toad	Sounds like baby chickens	Smallest toad in North America. In GA, only found in southern part of the state. Has a white stripe down the middle of its back.
Ornate Chorus Frog	Hammer hitting a metal chisel	Lives in South Georgia.
Pickerel Frog	Rising, quick snore	Usually calls while submerged, in late winter and spring.
Pig Frog	Sounds like pigs grunting	A very aquatic species that lives in the southern half of GA, in swamps with alligators. Has extensive toe webbing. People commonly eat Pig Frog legs.
Pine Barrens Treefrog	Nasal, duck-like chirp	Rare species; may occur in Georgia (in surrounding states), but undetected so far. Breeds in small pools with calls in spring & summer.
Pine Woods Treefrog	Sounds like morse code or a room full of busy typists	Lives in South GA in the Longleaf Pine ecosystem. About 1½" long. Breeds in fishless waters.
River Frog	Scary, low-pitched growling call	Big frog that lives in South GA river swamps.
Southern Leopard Frog	Variable screeching call, like a finger rubbed across a balloon	Normally call in winter and spring (early breeder). The most widespread species in GA. Similar in appearance to Pickerel Frog, but has a white dorso-lateral line and a white spot on the tympanum (eardrum).
Spring Peeper	High-pitched "peeps"	Occurs statewide. Breeds in the winter in GA but in the spring in the northern US. Wide range (up to Canada). Has an "X" mark on its back.
Squirrel Treefrog	Fast-paced early in the evening & squirrel-like bark later	Responds really well to rain. Breeds in fishless temporary puddles and pools, often in ditches.
Upland Chorus Frog (also called Southeastern Chorus Frog)	Sounds like a fingernail running across a comb's teeth	Winter breeder. Very secretive, but may call all day long on warm winter days. Breeds in fishless puddles.

General Frog Notes:

Georgia is home to 31 species of frogs ~ ranks 3rd in the US for the state with the most frog species.

A group of frogs is called a CHORUS.



In "true frogs," the males have tympanums (eardrums) that are larger than their eyes. In females, the tympanum is the same size or smaller than the eye.

Only males do breeding calls, and only males have vocal pouches. Their throats are a different color than their bellies (usually darker). They also call when it rains, but biologists aren't sure why ~ perhaps they are getting territorial before night falls.

Both males and females do release calls, usually as they are jumping away so as to notify others of predators in the area.

If you get a glimpse of a frog jumping into moving water, it is most likely a Green Frog or a Southern Leopard Frog.

Treefrogs have expanded toe patches that allow them to grab and climb.

To better learn Georgia's frog calls, you can find audio clips at
<http://jcmaerz.myweb.uga.edu/lab/GANAAMP/index.htm>.

OR

purchase a "Calls of the Wild ~ Vocalizations of Georgia's Frogs" CD at
<http://wwwknapp.home.mindspring.com/docs/ga.frog.cd.html>.

To test your ability to identify frog calls,
visit www.pwrc.usgs.gov/frogquiz
and click the "Public Quiz" tab.