

Watershed Wildlife

Submitted by Jessica Hunicke, Watershed Management Section



Juvenile (first-year) Northern Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) – a distinguishing characteristic of the spring peeper is the X on its back. Notice that it is not present in the image above but is present in the adult to the right.



Adult Northern Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)



[Leopard Frog](#)



[Pickerel frog](#)

Typically the leopard frog is green and the pickerel frog is brown but as you can see from the images above, that is not always the case. Other ways to tell the two frogs apart (besides listening to their calls) are by looking at the spots between the ridges on their backs and the “belly” of the frog. On leopard frogs, the spots tend to be irregular and rounded while the spots on a pickerel frog are more rectangular. Also, the underside of the pickerel frog can be yellow to orange in color (as shown in the image above).



Juvenile wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*) – The frog is beginning its transformation from a tadpole into a frog. It still has a tail and gills but its hind legs have already formed. The tail will slowly begin to disappear and the frog will begin to spend more time on land or above the water.



Northern Green Frog (*Rana clamitans melanota*) – The northern green frog and the bullfrog can look very similar. Visually, there are two key differences. The calls of the two frogs can also be used to differentiate them ([bullfrog call](#) [northern green frog](#)).

Visual Differences	Northern Green Frog	Bullfrog
Dorsolateral folds (ridges of skin)	Run the length of the frog along its back	Curve around the tympanic membrane (ear) and do not run the length of the frog
Size	Typically 2-4 inches long	Can be 6 inches long or greater



Juvenile American Toads (*Bufo americanus*) – the two toads pictured above just completed the metamorphosis from tadpole to frog. They are roughly the size of a small pebble (approximately 0.5 inches). When they first move onto land from the water, the ground can look like its moving there are so many toads jumping around.



Adult toad (*Bufo americanus*) – The female adult is typically larger than the male adult. The size of the female can range from approximately 2-4 inches while the male is roughly 3 inches.



Baltimore oriole (*Icterus galbula*) nest in a sycamore tree – Baltimore oriole nests are difficult to find because they hang from a tree branch and are camouflaged by the leaves. We were lucky to see the female land in the nest above or else we might never have found it.



Baby wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)



Mating pair of gray treefrogs (*Hyla versicolor*) – the male frog is smaller slightly green



Gray treefrog eggs are laid in small bundles on the surface of the water and are bundled by a clear gelatinous substance. Each individual egg is about the size of a sesame seed.



Common Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*) – The milk snake got its name from an old wives tale that tells of the snake sucking the milk from cows or nursing mothers. They are common on farms and urban areas near trash. They feed mostly on rodents so are good to have around [\(Source\)](#).



This bluebird box has a pair of tree swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) nesting in it. The image above shows the female on the box feeding the babies and the male coming in with more food.



The tree swallow nest is typically made of grasses and then lined with feathers as shown above. You can just barely see the babies!