

Featured Species



Bullfrog (*Lithobates (Rana) catesbeiana*)

The bullfrog is the largest frog in North America, weighing up to one pound. The bullfrog's color is anywhere from a dark green to a yellow on its back, with mottled dark gray spots. The underside of the bullfrog is white and sometimes mottled with gray splotches. The bullfrog has no dorsolateral ridge (a fold of skin that runs from each eye down the back) and this is the easiest way to tell them apart from the green frog (*Lithobates (Rana) clamitans*). The bullfrog can be found throughout its native range of the eastern and central United States, but has been introduced to many parts of the western U.S. where it poses a significant threat to smaller, native frogs. The bullfrog prefers permanent bodies of waters (ponds, lakes, and slow moving rivers) with sufficient vegetation to provide cover. This species is nocturnal and breeds May to July in northern parts of its range and February to October in southern parts of its range. The mating call is a "jug-o-rum". Listen for this species in your area.

Malformations and Deformities

Amphibians with malformations and deformities are increasingly found around the world. There are four main reasons for malformations and deformities in amphibians: 1) predators, 2) parasites, 3) nutritional deficiencies, and 4) contaminants. Visit the Web Sites below to learn more or to report a malformation or deformity.

<http://www.nbj.gov/narcam>

http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/amphibian_malformation_and_decline/index.jsp

<http://www.fws.gov/contaminants/Issues/Amphibians.cfm>

Attract Amphibians to Your Yard: Tip #6

Buy Locally Grown Organic Foods

Not only does buying locally grown organic food help support your community and local farmers but it reduces the amount of pesticides being used across the country. Less pesticides means a safer Earth for both you and the frogs!

Other tips can be found in earlier issues of the FrogWatch USA newsletter, which are available at www.aza.org/frogwatch.

News From Around the Country

What FrogWatchers are Hearing

- Wendy in Lynnwood, Wash., is hearing a chorus of many species in nearby wetlands.
- Mandy in western Mass. is hearing green frogs and saw a northern leopard frog in the Berkshires.

Tree Frog Rescue

Carol Ann of San Francisco, Calif., rescued about 50 Pacific chorus frogs (*Pseudacris regilla*) tadpoles from a construction site and is raising them at her home. When the tadpoles metamorph into tiny toadlets she releases them back into the wild. Ten have already hatched and she has 40 more to go.

Editor's note: Curators from the Bronx and Fort Worth Zoos recommend releasing tadpoles, rather than new metamorphs. Tadpoles may be able to learn environmental queues more easily, can more easily adapt to new water parameters, and may be more able to take cover from predators.

Photos by FrogWatchers



A green frog reflected in water. Photo taken by Lisa and Ed of Warwick Neck, R.I.