

## Gray Tree Frog

(*Hyla versicolor*)

## Cope's Gray Tree Frog

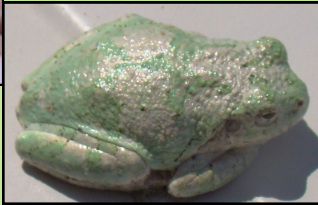
(*Hyla chrysoscelis*)



The gray tree frogs are the North Country's true species of tree frog and spend most of their time in trees, shrubs, and large-leaved vegetation. Despite their common name, these frogs are not always gray and can change the color of their skin to camouflage with their habitat. Both of these frogs are nearly identical, but can be distinguished by their mating calls, a slow trill in *H. versicolor*, and a faster high-pitched call by *H. chrysoscelis*.



Tree Frog (right) doing an impressive imitation of an off-white air conditioner!



## Western Chorus Frog

(*Pseudacris triseriata*)



Smallest of Fort Drum's frogs, Chorus Frogs are typically the first frogs to begin calling on Fort Drum when it is still cold in the early spring. Chorus frogs are much easier to

hear than see—males attract mates with a call that sounds like running a finger down a hair comb. If in the hand, they have brown lines on their back, but not an "X" like the Spring Peeper.

## Spring Peeper

(*Pseudacris crucifer*)

After a long winter, few sounds are more welcomed than "peeps" of the Spring Peeper. Peepers, though small, can be quite loud at full chorus. They are usually a dark green or brown color, but they always have a dark "X" on their back. Peepers are habitat generalists and can be found in or near any type of aquatic habitats.



## American Toad

(*Bufo americanus*)



The American toad is the only toad found on Fort Drum. They are easily identified being somewhat stout-bodied with "warty" reddish-brown skin and two parotoid glands on back of neck. Males emit a long trilling call to

attract females. These toads are considered habitat generalists, but more commonly found away from water. You will not get warts if handling a toad, but they will often urinate as a defense mechanism.

### REGULATIONS FOR HARVESTING FROGS

Frogs found on Fort Drum may be harvested for human consumption or bait with appropriate licenses. To hunt frogs (firearm or bow) you must possess a NYS small game license. To fish (spear, hook, or hand catch) frogs in NYS you must possess a NYS state fishing license. See NYS fish and game regulations for current season dates.

All photos: Fort Drum Natural Resources Branch.

FROGS AND TOADS OF FORT DRUM



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2018

## Bullfrog

(*Rana catesbeiana*)



The Bullfrog is Fort Drum's largest frog. Bullfrogs are a dull green color and often have extensive mottling. They are known for their jumping abilities due to

their large powerful legs. Due to their voracious appetites Bull frogs are key predators of wetlands. Males emit a deep resonating call sounding like "jug-o-rum."

## Green Frog

(*Rana clamitans*)

Green frogs are very common throughout Fort Drum and inhabit every type of permanent water system. Green frogs are typically green to



bronze in color often with dark mottling on their backs. The breeding season of Green Frogs may extend all spring and summer. The call of males resembles the sound of a loose "banjo-string".



Bullfrogs and Green Frogs look similar, but one way to tell the difference is the size of the tympanum—the tympanum of the Bullfrog is larger than its eye while it is about the same size of the eye on a Green Frog.

## Northern Leopard Frog

(*Rana pipiens*)



Inhabiting all types of water resources Northern Leopard frogs are seen throughout Fort Drum. Also called a "grass frog" it can be found well away from water. Like most

frogs, colors can vary from brown to green with darker spots encircled by a lighter-colored ring. During breeding season males call to females by making a long "snoring" sound followed by several "chuckles".

## Pickerel Frog

(*Rana palustris*)

Similar looking to Northern Leopard Frogs, Pickerel Frogs lack the light-colored rings around the darker spots and also have orange coloration through the groin area. Breeding season typically begins in late April with males calling to females making a long "creaking" sound like a rocking chair or door hinge in need of oil.



## Mink Frog

(*Rana serpentrionalis*)

Mink frogs tend to occur in colder regions—Fort Drum and the Great Lakes is on the southern end of its range. Mink frogs have medium to dark olive-gray backs with uniform mottling. Its skin secretes a musky "mink-oil" type smell when disturbed. Breeding begins in June with males emitting "cut-cut-cut-ghurr-r-r" calls. Mink frogs are often mistaken with Green frogs.



## Wood Frog

(*Rana sylvatica*)

Wood Frogs are the only frog to live north of the Arctic Circle. They are able to survive the winter by having the ability to freeze solid without harm to their bodies while hibernating in dead logs and under leaves. The Wood Frog is a smaller sized frog with a color that varies from tan to nearly black, but always with an easily recognizable black "face mask". Wood frogs are found throughout mature forests that contain vernal pools and are among the earliest breeding frogs. Males attract mates with a call resembling "duck-duck-duck".



## FROGS & TOADS



In New York State there are 14 species of frogs and toads; Fort Drum has 11 species.

Toads tend to have drier and rougher skin than frogs, but they are both amphibians and require wet habitats to live in. In fact, amphibians can breathe through their skin. Frogs tend to have longer legs and are known for jumping; toads tend to walk or hop shorter distances.

Amphibians lay eggs that are surrounded by a jelly-like substance and must be laid in water or moist areas so they don't dry out. Amphibians hatch from their eggs as tadpoles looking completely different than adults. This is called metamorphosis—butterflies also go through metamorphosis as the caterpillar becomes an adult butterfly or moth.

Almost all frogs and toads are carnivores eating mostly insects, but practically any other moving thing they can fit in their mouth—including smaller frogs!

You can NOT get warts from touching a toad. The bumps on a toad are actually glands that secrete an irritating toxin to deter predators from eating them.