



- PRESENTER'S NOTES

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Credits

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Photographs
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- Special thanks to these additional photographers:
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 - J T Williams

Definitions

- **Herpetology:** The study of amphibians and reptiles
- **Herps:** Slang for amphibians and reptiles; from the Greek *herpein*, meaning “to creep”

- Herping = looking for amphibians and reptiles; typically for the “thrill of the find” or for research, not to kill
- Herper = one who looks for amphibians and reptiles
- Herpetologist = professional who studies amphibians and reptiles
- Herptiles / Herpetofauna = alternatives of herps

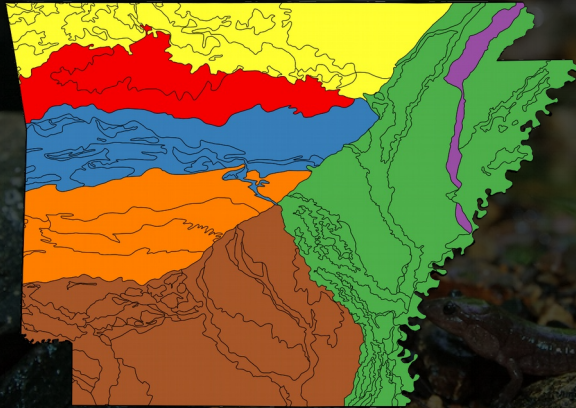
- Herpetology as a field is based more on historical groupings than on biologically meaningful ones; amphibians and reptiles are hugely different groups of vertebrates.

AR Herp Species

Source	Amphibs	Reptiles	Total
Trauth 2004	52	65	117
AR Herp Atlas 2016	58	67	125

- General trend toward splitting, rather than lumping, taxa.
- Genetic analysis has revealed many “hidden” species that are not always congruent with traditional subspecies recognitions.

Level III Ecoregions



- Ozark Highlands
- Boston Mountains
- Arkansas Valley
- Ouachita Mountains
- South Central Plains
- Mississippi Alluvial Plain
- Crowley's Ridge

- Additional major geographic/genetic barriers:
 - Arkansas River
 - Mississippi River
 - Elevations (i.e. “sky islands”), particularly in the Ouachita Mountains



- 25 species in 5 families
- Plains Spadefoot (*Spea bombifrons*) at breeding pool



- True Toads (Bufonidae)

1) Dwarf American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus charlesmithi*)

---- Statewide; long, melodic trilling call

2) Fowler's Toad (*Anaxyrus fowleri*)

---- Statewide; hybridizes with Rocky Mountain Toad (*A. woodhousii woodhousii*); short trilling call



- Treefrogs (Hylidae)
 - Cricket Frogs (*Acris*)

3) Blanchard's Cricket Frog (*Acris blanchardi*)

---- Statewide; highly variable; cricket-like call; small photos = variations



- Treefrogs (Hylidae)
 - Holarctic Treefrogs (*Hyla*)

- TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT

4) Cope's Gray Treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*)

---- Statewide, except less common in Ozarks; arboreal; nearly indistinguishable from *H. versicolor*; faster trilling call

5) Western Bird-voiced Treefrog (*Hyla avivoca avivoca*)

---- Swamps of South Central Plains and Arkansas Valley; arboreal; melodic, bird-like call

6) Green Treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*)

---- Statewide, except Ozarks; arboreal; duck-like call

- BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT

7) Gray Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*)

---- Ozarks and Arkansas Valley primarily; nearly indistinguishable from *H. chrysoscelis*; arboreal; slower trilling call

8) Squirrel Treefrog (*Hyla squirella*)

---- Couple of localities in Union County; arboreal; nasally, buzzing quack call



- Treefrogs (Hylidae)
 - Chorus Frogs (*Pseudacris*)

- LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM

9) Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)

---- Statewide; arboreal; harbinger of spring with loud peeps

10) Cajun Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris fouquettei*)

---- Statewide; slower “thumbnail over a comb” like call

11) Boreal Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris maculata*)

---- Pea Ridge area in Benton County; near indistinguishable from *P. fouquettei*; faster “thumbnail over a comb” like call

- RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM

12) Strecker's Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris streckeri*)

---- Arkansas Valley primarily; larger than other *Pseudacris*; “tink” like call

13) Illinois Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris illinoensis*)

---- Extreme NE corner of state; proposed candidate for endangered species status; larger than other *Pseudacris*; “tink” like call



- Microhylid Frogs and Toads (Microhylidae)

14) Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad (*Gastrophryne carolinensis*)

---- Statewide; fossorial ant eater; “baaaw of dying sheep” like call

15) Western Narrow-mouthed Toad (*Gastrophryne olivacea*)

---- Spotty records from western Arkansas; fossorial; “angry buzz” like call



- True Frogs (Ranidae)

- LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM

16) Crawfish Frog (*Lithobates areolatus* ssp.)

---- Arkansas Valley and four corners; early spring breeder; “snorting hog” like call

17) Plains Leopard Frog (*Lithobates blairi*)

---- Mississippi County

- RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM

18) Pickerel Frog (*Lithobates palustris*)

---- Statewide; quiet “snoring” like call

19) Coastal Plains Leopard Frog (*Lithobates sphenoccephalus utricularius*)

---- Statewide; “chuckling/quacking” like call



- True Frogs (Ranidae)

- LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM

20A) American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*)

20B) American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) – Tadpole

---- Statewide; Arkansas's largest frog; bull-like call

- RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM

21) Green Frog (*Lithobates clamitans*)

---- Statewide; “loose banjo string” like call

22) Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*)

---- Ozarks; late winter breeder; quiet “hoarse quacking” like call



- North American Spadefoots (Scaphiopodidae)
 - LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM
 - 23) Eastern Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*)
---- Mississippi Alluvial Plain; highly fossorial; grunt-like call
 - 24) Hurter's Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus hurterii*)
---- Arkansas Valley and South Central Plain primarily; highly fossorial; grunt-like call
 - RIGHT
 - 25) Plains Spadefoot (*Spea bombifrons*)
---- Limited records from Arkansas Valley; highly fossorial; snore-like call

Frogs of Potential Occurrence

- Rocky Mountain Toad (*Anaxyrus woodhousii woodhousii*)
- Gulf Coast Toad (*Incilius nebulifer*)
- Spotted Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris clarkii*)
- Upland Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris feriarum*)



Additional Resources

HerpsOfArkansas.com

ArkansasFrogsAndToads.org

[Amphibians and Reptiles of Arkansas](#)
by Stanley E. Trauth, et al.

[Arkansas Snake Guide \(AG&F\)](#)
by Kelly J. Irwin



- THE END