

Common Amphibians of Pools and Ponds



Spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*)

The spotted salamander is a mole salamander that lives in deciduous or mixed deciduous and coniferous forests containing temporary or permanent ponds. Spotted salamanders are seldom seen except during the breeding season when they are active on the surface as they make their way to water to breed and lay eggs. During the rest of the year, they spend most of their time underground or under cover.



Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*)

Like the spotted salamander, the Jefferson salamander is a mole salamander. Jefferson salamanders live in similar habitat and, like the spotted, are seldom seen outside the breeding season.



Eastern newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*)

The eastern newt inhabits a variety of aquatic habitats including temporary and permanent ponds, lakes, and slow-moving creeks and streams that are in or near the woods. As adults, these animals live an aquatic life. However, juveniles of this species may live on land for 3-7 years before returning to the water to breed.



Pickerel frog (*Lithobates palustris*)

The pickerel frog is a semi-aquatic species. This frog uses temporary ponds in woodlands and in fields, borders of streams and rivers, and the shallow, weedy areas of permanent ponds and lakes. Away from the water, these frogs frequently are found in damp, grassy meadows and moist woodlands.



American toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*)

The American toad is a very terrestrial species and a habitat generalist. Outside the breeding season, toads can be found in upland habitats such as forests, fields, meadows, and rocky hillsides. They can also be found on agricultural land and in backyards. During the breeding season, toads use both permanent and temporary bodies of water. They will often use roadside ditches, tire ruts filled with water, and large puddles in fields or woodlands, in addition to larger ponds and pools.



Green frog (*Lithobates clamitans*)

The green frog is a habitat generalist that requires a permanent water source to complete its life cycle. Green frogs may be found in small ponds, marshes and swamps, and along borders of large lakes. They may also inhabit flowing water, from tiny streams to the banks of large rivers.



Wood frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*)

The wood frog inhabits moist or lowland deciduous forests. During the breeding season, wood frogs can be seen in or near standing water, either temporary or permanent. During the rest of the year, they spend their time in the forest, often under the forest floor litter.



Spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)

The spring peeper inhabits deciduous woodlands and swamps, and adjacent marshy fields and meadows. They breed in marshes, small woodland ponds, and along margins of larger ponds and lakes. During the breeding season they are most commonly seen in open areas, after which these frogs move into the woods.