

American Toad

American Toad (*Bufo americanus*) - Pl.29

Identification: 2" - 4 3/8". Although this toad is common in the Northern Region of the state, it is easily confused with the Fowler's Toad. Coloration is variable, with patterns of warts, spots and blotches. The ground color is earth-toned, ranging from olive to brown to brick red, with blotches of lighter or darker colors; warts are lighter or darker shades of yellowish, reddish or brown. The chest usually has darker spots. There may be a light line running down the center of the back. The warts on the lower portion of the hind leg are enlarged. The American Toad is distinguished from the Fowler's Toad by the number of warts in the largest blotches: the American Toad has no more than two warts per blotch (compare to the Fowler's toad, below). The location of parotoid (shoulder) glands also distinguishes the American Toad from other species of toad: in the American Toad, the parotoid glands do not contact the ridge behind the eyes; however, a short spur may span the gap between gland and ridge.

Where to find them: This species can be found anywhere from backyards to remote woodlands. This toad breeds in shallow bodies of water, including vernal pools, the shallow edges of streams, and permanent ponds.

When to find them: Active March through late September. Breeds from March to June.

Voice: Long, musical trill, lasting up to thirty seconds.

Range: All of Northern Region except southern Monmouth County.

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Key Features

- One or two large warts in each large dark spot.
- Parotoid gland separated from the large ridge behind the eye or connected only by a spur.
- Chest and abdomen spotted with a dark pigment.



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Excerpt from: "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey"
Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fwg/products.htm>