

Common Tadpoles of Polk County

Images and information from “Tadpoles of the United States and Canada: A Tutorial and Key” (http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/tadpole/division_3.htm)

A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Iowa, Jeffrey B. LeClere



American Toad—small, **appears black**, often in large groups, metamorphose in July



Cricket Frog—small, often dark band across chest, breed in permanent bodies of water from May to July and metamorphose one to two months later



Chorus Frog—small, **upper side of tail muscle dark colored**, breed late March to May in any standing water and metamorphose two months later



Eastern Gray Treefrog—small to medium, mottled tail **often with red or orange tip**, breed in permanent to semi-permanent fish-less wetlands and metamorphose late June to July



Leopard Frog—small to medium; greenish, brownish, or yellowish, usually with darker spotting and mottling; **light line present on lip**; tail fin begins at base of tail with very low arch, intestinal coil partially visible; eyes do not reach the edges of the head when viewed from above; metamorphose late June or early July



Bullfrog—small to very large; greenish or brownish, with small, crisp, bold back dots or dark mottling with light flecks, **no light line on lip**; **underside is white or yellow**; intestinal coil not visible on larger tadpoles; eyes do not reach the edges of the head when viewed from above; permanent bodies of water; usually spend two winters before metamorphosing in July or August