Eagles & Toads of Nevada

Note: Color varies greatly within species. DO NOT use color as your main indicator.

NOTE: CHECK NDOW REGULATIONS BEFORE MOVING OR COLLECTING ANY AMPHIBIANS (www.ndow.org). Special permits or licenses may be required (NRS 504.295, NAC 504.461, NAC 503.135).

Northern Leopard Frog—Rana pipiens

Spottea Morph

Unspotted (Bumsi) Morph

Distribution: Isolated locations in E. NV and extreme W. NV
Size: Medium < 3 1/2 in. SVL
Color: Green, brown, or both.
Spotting: Dark, circular spots with halos irregularly placed throughout the body.
Some rare morphs have NO spots.
Look for: Body: Has two, light-colored dorsolateral folds (lines of raised glandular skin in an area between the back and the sides), upper lip stripe.
Habitat: Heavily vegetated freshwater to brackish marshes and moist fields; from desert to mountain meadow.
Call: Snore-like rattle interspersed with a sound like that of rubbing an inflated balloon. Calls both day and night.

Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog—Rana muscosa

Distribution: Sunny stream banks and undisturbed ponds and lakes. Adults highly aquatic; rarely found more than a few hops from water.
Call: Short and rasping, often rises in pitch and accelerates at the end. Call is rarely...
Habitat: Very weak; lacks amplifying sacs.

Columbia Spotted Frog—Rana luteiventris

Spotting: Irregular-shaped black spots with indistinct edges and light centers.
Look for: Head: Dorsolateral fold/ridges usually present. Upturned eyes.
Body: Extensive webbing between the toes of the hind feet. Relatively short hind legs.
Habitat: Mountainous areas near cold streams and lakes.
Call: Very weak; lacks amplifying sacs.

Bullfrog—Rana catesbeiana

Distribution: Spotty statewide-NON-NATIVE.
Size: Large < 9 in. SVL
Color: Usually dull green, but may be brownish; some specimens dark gray to black. Underside often ranges from shades of white to yellow.

Reticulated Spotted Frog—Rana onca

Distribution: Southern Nevada, near Lake Mead, along Colorado River—Very limited
Similar species in NV: Northern Leopard Frog, but R. onca usually smaller, with shorter legs (heel of leg extended along side of body usually does not reach tip of snout).
Size: Medium < 3 1/2 in. SVL
Color: Brown, gray, or greenish above. Whitish below, sometimes with gray or brown mottling, especially on throat. Spotted: Has brown spots that are often reduced or obscure on front of body and few or absent on the head.
Look for: Body: Indistinct dorsolateral folds end well before groin.
Habitat: Frequent lowland streamsides and springs in areas surrounded by desert. Usually found in or near water.
**Frogs & Toads of Nevada (not to scale; not all NV's species included)**

**Note:** Color varies greatly within species. DO NOT use color as your main indicator.

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**Red-Spotted Toad—Bufo punctatus**

*Metamorphs can be as small as ½ inch, and their middorsal stripe may be very faint to non-existent.*

**Distribution:** Southern Nevada.
**Size:** Small 1½-3 in. SVL
**Color:** Back: ranges from various shades of brown to gray with scattered red spots. No mid-dorsal stripe. Look for: Head: The ONLY toad with a bump between the eyes that aren’t raised. Look for: Head: Pupils are vertical (not evident when dilated); eyes are very large, golden yellow, set on side of head. Tyrannus is small, inconspicuous. Has a bump between the eyes. Parotoid glands indistinct or absent. Body: Rather plump; short, stubby limbs. *Has well developed tubercle ("spade") on the bottom of the 1st toe of the hind foot.*
**Skin:** Warty, but with smooth skin and woodlands.

**Distribution:** Spotty statewide.
**Size:** Small < 2 in. SVL
**Color:** Ash-gray streaks usually set off gray or olive hourglass marking on back; underside cream or white without markings; bumpy skin, but not as "warty" as B. boreas.
**Skin:** Small bumps, dark brown/red; also has other spots/patches of color that aren’t raised.

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**Western Toad—Bufo boreas**

**Distribution:** Spotty statewide.
**Size:** Large < 5 in. SVL
**Color:** Back: Gray to olive brown. Distinct symmetrically paired dark patches have a white/cream-colored border. Belly: White or cream with no spots. There is little variation in the color pattern except some specimens having cleaner markings and brighter patches versus dull ones. Look for: Head: Cranial crests converge at snout to form a prominent bump ("boss"). Behind the eyes, the crests meet elongate parotoid glands. See above. **Habitat:** Grasslands of the prairie and drier bushy areas.
**Call:** High-pitched, almost metallic trill.

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**Woodhouse’s Toad—Bufo woodhousii**

**Distribution:** Southeastern Nevada.
**Size:** Large < 4¾ in. SVL
**Color:** Back: buffy to olive with numerous spots and specks between the warts. Belly: whitish with scattered black blotches (more pronounced in juveniles). **Habitat:** Near springs, streams, meadows and woodlands.
**Call:** Generally considered absent except for warning chuckles during breeding season or gentle peeping release calls from males during handling.

**Amargosa Toad—Bufo nelsoni**

**Distribution:** Found only in Oasis Valley, Southern Nevada—Very limited.
**Size:** Medium Females: < 5 in. SVL
**Males:** < 4 in.
**Color:** Back: buffy to olive with prominent white stripe down back. Look for: Head: Thick head; rounded snout. Large parotoid glands. Large foot. **Body:** Webs of hind feet very large; soles rather smooth; limbs short, knees and elbows not large. **Habitat:** Near springs, streams, meadows and woodlands.
**Call:** Generally considered absent except for warning chuckles during breeding season or gentle peeping release calls from males during handling.

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**Southwestern Toad—Bufo microscaphus**

**Distribution:** Southern Nevada.
**Size:** Medium 2½-3 in. SVL
**Color:** Olive to brown to pink, often with light stripe/patch on head and back which may be dim/absent. With or without spots. Look for: Head: No cranial crests; parotoid glands oval and lighter colored in front. Interbreeds with B. woodhousii.
**Habitat:** Loose gravelly areas of streams

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**Great Plains Toad—Bufo cognatus**

**Distribution:** Southeastern Nevada.
**Size:** Large < 4½ in. SVL
**Color:** Back: Gray to olive brown. Distinct symmetrically paired dark patches have a white/cream-colored border. **Belly:** White or cream with no spots. There is little variation in the color pattern except some specimens having cleaner markings and brighter patches versus dull ones. Look for: Head: Cranial crests converge at snout to form a prominent bump ("boss"). Behind the eyes, the crests meet elongate parotoid glands. See above. **Habitat:** Grasslands of the prairie and drier bushy areas.
**Call:** High-pitched, almost metallic trill.

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**Great Basin Spadefoot—Spea intermontana**

**Distribution:** Spotty statewide.
**Size:** < 1 in. SVL
**Color:** Usually grayish or yellow with light stripe/patch on head and back which may be dim/absent. With or without spots. Look for: Head: No cranial crests; parotoid glands oval and lighter colored in front. Interbreeds with B. woodhousii.
**Habitat:** Loose gravelly areas of streams

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**Amargosa Spadefoot—Spea adefoot**

**Distribution:** Found only in Oasis Valley, Southern Nevada—Very limited.
**Size:** Medium Females: < 5 in. SVL
**Males:** < 4 in.
**Color:** Back: buffy to olive with numerous spots and specks between the warts. **Belly:** whitish with scattered black blotches (more pronounced in juveniles). **Habitat:** Near springs, streams, meadows and woodlands.
**Call:** Generally considered absent except for warning chuckles during breeding season or gentle peeping release calls from males during handling.

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**Nevada Division of Wildlife**

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