

# AMPHIBIANS



## Blue-spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*)

**Description:** Blue-spotted Salamanders are slender with dark blue-black coloring. They have whitish or lighter blue spots on their backs, four toes on their front feet, and five on their back feet.

**Size:** 3-5 inches

*Credit: USFWS*

## Central (Eastern) Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*)

**Description:** Central newts may go through three phases beyond the larval stage—aquatic adult, terrestrial (land dwelling) adult, and terrestrial eft. Newts are primarily aquatic. Adults have smooth skin with orange and black spots on a brownish-orange to light olive-colored background. The terrestrial adults are dark olive to brown above with a whitish underside speckled with black flecks. The skin of the



terrestrial adults feels like sandpaper. The eft (the terrestrial juvenile phase) is primarily a plain brown-orange color with tiny black flecks throughout.

**Size:** 2-5/8-5-1/2 inches

*Credit: USFWS*

## Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)

**Description:** Spring peepers are generally brown, gray, or green with dark markings on the back which form an "X" pattern. Their call is one short high peep, as their name suggests, and can usually be heard between March-June in any areas near bodies of water such as ponds, streams, or marshes.

**Size:** 3/4 to 1-1/2 inches



*Credit: USFWS*

## Eastern Gray Tree Frog (*Hyla versicolor*)

**Description:** These frogs are green, gray, or brown with light spots beneath their eyes; bright yellow or orange underneath their hind legs. They have large toe pads; and rough or bumpy backs, usually with darker blotches. Their call is a loud trill that lasts up to 30 seconds and is often mistaken for a bird call. **Size:** 1-1/4 to 2 inches



*Credit: Tim Sweet*

## American Toad (*Bufo americanus*)

**Description:** Toads may be brown to red to olive, with dark, warty skin. Their paratoid glands, located behind the eye, secrete a mild bufotoxin that can irritate human skin. Their musical trill lasts up to 30



*Credit: USFWS*

seconds, with considerable individual variation in the tone. American toads on Plum Island exhibit an island gigantism phenomenon and are much larger than their mainland relatives.

**Size:** 2 to 4-1/2 inches

### Mission of USFWS:

It is the mission of the Service to work "with others, to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."

### Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System:

It is the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System to administer a network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

# Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge: PLUM ISLAND WILDLIFE

*The Great Lakes islands are a great value to fish and wildlife because they provide relatively undisturbed habitat that may have fewer predators, allowing vulnerable species to survive. The very nature of these islands results in high biodiversity compared to similar mainland habitats because of the significant expanses of shorelines which provide essential habitat for a large variety of fish and wildlife species.*



The purposes of the partnership between Friends of Plum & Pilot Islands (FOPPI) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are "to facilitate and to formulate the cooperation of the Service and the Friends to support the goals of the preservation, restoration, maintenance of the lighthouses, accessory buildings and other historic resources on Plum and Pilot Islands and to conserve and protect wildlife resources, while providing opportunities for quality wildlife-dependent recreation on Plum Island."

## REPTILES

### Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtialis*)

**Description:** These harmless, medium-sized snakes are often found near ponds. They live in many different rural and suburban areas and are found on hilltops, along rivers, and in backyards. Their black and yellow stripes are distinctive. Although they are not venomous, garter snakes may bite when handled, and they may defecate (poop), releasing a foul odor.

**Size:** 2 feet



*Credit: USFWS*

### Brown Snake (*Storeria dekayi*)

**Description:** True to their name, brown snakes are brown with a lighter-colored stripe down the back and a row of small black spots on each side. They are mainly active in the daytime, but in hot weather may be out at night instead. Although they will bite when threatened, they are not venomous.

**Size:** 9 to 13 inches



*Credit: Mike VanValen © 2008 flickr*

### Western Fox Snake (*Elaphe vulpina*)



**Description:** Western fox snakes are yellow to dark brown with brown or black markings and have yellow bellies marked

*Credit: USFWS*

with black. Adults have unmarked bronze colored heads.

**Sound:** Although they lack rattles, Western fox snakes can make a rattling sound when shaking their tails. They also may hiss when threatened. They are not venomous.

**Size:** At 35 to 56 inches from head to tail tip, the Western fox snake is among Wisconsin's longest.

### Northern Water Snake (*Nerodia sipedon*)

**Description:** These 2- to 3-foot-long snakes come in many color variations. The background color tends to be gray or brown and the markings are brown or reddish. Their bellies are lighter colored with dark, crescent-shaped spots. Very large northern water snakes may appear completely brown or black. They are not venomous.



*Credit: USFWS*

**Size:** Newborn northern water snakes are 6 to 10 inches long. They grow to be 24 to 42 inches. Females are generally bigger than males.

### Northern Ringneck Snake (*Diadophis puntatus edwardsi*)

**Description:** These small, slender snakes have yellow, cream, or orange neck rings; bright yellow, orange, or red bellies, frequently marked with black spots; and gray, olive, brownish, or black backs. Their neck rings may be interrupted, obscure, or occasionally absent. They are secretive; often found under flat rocks, logs, or loose bark of dead trees. They rarely attempt to bite when picked up, but may defecate, releasing a foul odor. They are not venomous.

**Size:** 10-30 inches



*Credit: Tim Sweet*

## MAMMALS

### Deer Mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*)

**Description:** Deer mice have bulging eyes and large ears. Their tails may be shorter than the head and body or strikingly longer, depending on the species.



*Credit: USFWS*

**Size:** 3.1 to 6.7 inches long

### White Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)



**Description:** Deer have hooved feet, slender bodies, and long, thin legs. Don't let their skinny legs fool you: deer are able to run up to 40 miles per hour, jump 9 foot fences, and swim 13 miles per hour.

*Credit: Tim Sweet*

### Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

**Description:** Coyotes are about the size of a medium-sized dog. Adult males range from 44 to 52 inches long, including their 14-inch tails. They weigh between 25 to 42 pounds and have long, thin legs, tapered muzzles, yellow-colored eyes like foxes, rather large, pointed ears, and bushy, black tipped drooping tails.



*Credit: Steve Thompson/USFWS*