

Pickerel Frog

Pickerel Frog (*Rana palustris*) - Pl.36

Identification: 1 3/4" - 3". The Pickerel Frog, the other medium-sized spotted frog in New Jersey, is distinguished from the Southern Leopard Frog by having square (rather than round) spots. These dark, imperfectly square spots form two rows on the back. Spots are also present on the legs and sides. The ground color is tan. There is a light line on the upper jaw. The inner surfaces of the hind legs are orange or yellow. Dorsolateral ridges are present.

Where to find them: Found in a variety of habitats, ranging from clear streams in ravines or meadows, to brown, murky waters of the Coastal Plain. This species may be found away from water in vegetated areas outside the breeding season.

When to find them: Breeds March to May.

Voice: Like a low, raspy, long, steady belch. Can call while underwater.

Range: Entire state, excluding the core Pinelands.

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(*Rana palustris*) - text pg. 44

Key Features

- Brown in color.
- Two rows of imperfect dark squares down back (compare with southern leopard frog above).
- Concealed surfaces of legs are an orange/yellow.
- Dorsolateral ridges present.



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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/fgw/products.htm>