

Southern Leopard Frog

Southern Leopard Frog (*Rana utricularia*) - Pl.36

Identification: 2" - 5". The ground color is green and/or brown, clearly marked with large, dark, round spots. The sides of the body typically have fewer spots than the back. Other distinguishing marks are a central light spot in the tympanum, a light line on the upper jaw, and yellow or cream-colored dorsolateral ridges that run the length of the body.

Where to find them: Inhabits a variety of wetland habitats. It is usually found in shallow freshwater, but occasionally found in brackish marshes. It may be found away from water in vegetated areas outside breeding season.

When to find them: Breeding season lasts from late March through June.

Voice: Repetitious clucking sound, with or without an additional low raspy call.

Range: Entire state, but rare in the northern region.

Note: The similar Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*), which can be found in Pennsylvania, lacks the central light spot in the tympanum, and has a blunter head and more spots on the sides than the Southern Leopard Frog.

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Key Features

- Bright green or rich brown in color.
- Two or three rows of dark spots down back.
- Light spot may be present on tympanum and a light line may exist along upper jaw.
- Dorsolateral ridge present and yellowish in color.



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Excerpt from: Schwartz, V. & D. Golden, "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey". New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife 2002.

Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>