



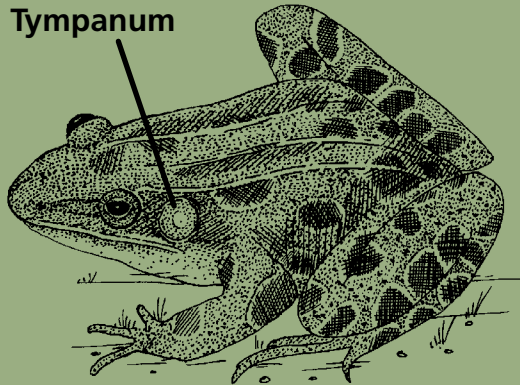
Amphibians of the Swamp...

Amphibians are animals that live a portion of their life in water. Some, like sirens, live their entire life in water. While the word “moist” may carry a negative connotation to some humans, most frogs and toads rely on keeping their skin moist to survive.

Drums in the Night

Start a walk in the swamp at dusk and imagine listening to a symphony orchestra commence a soft prelude with the timpani drums beating with every step. As the sunlight dims, the music crescendos transitioning into the swamp’s own symphony of croaking. Seemingly on cue, males searching for a mate call out for females, veiled from predators in the darkness. Females hear the male serenades with their tympanum, the frog or toad’s outer ear located behind the eye. Amphibians use this tympanum, an ancient word in Greek meaning drum, because it resembles a piece of cloth stretched over a drum.

Tympanum



The tympanum of this Southern leopard frog is identified here. The Southern leopard frog can be distinguished because it has a yellow spot in the center of its tympanum.

Watching wildlife the responsible way...

The thrill of watching a wild animal in its native surroundings is spectacular and awe inspiring. While visiting Big Cypress National Preserve, or any other natural area, remember:

- All wildlife is wild and unpredictable. Stay a safe distance from any wild animal —15 feet is recommended.
- View wildlife with respect.
- Never feed wildlife.
- All plants and animals within national park areas are protected, it is illegal to collect any wildlife without special permits.

Cover photo: oak toad, courtesy of Jan Shirey, NPS/VIP

**How You Behave
Can Save
Do Not Feed or
Harass Wildlife**



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA!

Big Cypress Amphibians



SALAMANDERS

Sirens

- ___ Everglades dwarf siren *Pseudobranchius axanthus belli*
- ___ Greater siren *Siren lacertina*

Newts

- ___ Peninsula newt *Notophthalmus viridescens piaropicola*

Amphiumas

- ___ Two-toed amphiuma *Amphiuma means*

FROGS AND TOADS

True frogs

- ___ Pig frog *Rana grylio*
- ___ Southern leopard frog *Rana sphenoccephala*

Toads

- ___ Giant, marine, or cane toad* *Bufo marinus*
- ___ Oak toad *Bufo quercicus*
- ___ Southern toad *Bufo terrestris*

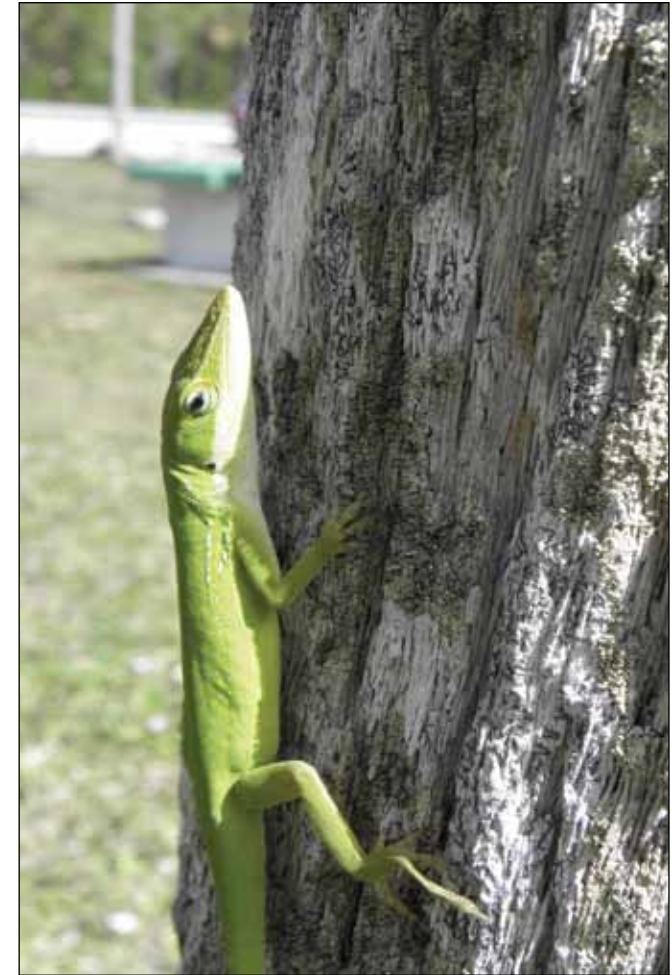
Treefrogs

- ___ Florida cricket frog *Acris gryllus dorsalis*
- ___ Green treefrog *Hyla cinerea*
- ___ Barking treefrog *Hyla gratiosa*
- ___ Squirrel treefrog *Hyla squirella*
- ___ **Little grass frog** *Pseudacris ocularis*
- ___ Eastern narrow-mouthed toad *Gastrophyne carolinensis*
- ___ Cuban treefrog* *Osteopilus septentrionalis*
- ___ Florida chorus frog *Pseudacris nigrita verrucohern*

Frogs

- ___ Greenhouse frog *Eleutherodactylus planirostris*

* = invasive species



Above: A green anole crawls up a tree using its long toes and adhesive foot pads. The green anole can change from green to brown, which confuses identification with the Cuban brown anole, a native to the West Indies, that was introduced to Florida in the 1970s. However, the Cuban brown anole can be identified by the patterns on its back.

Left: Cuban treefrog, an introduced species that has spread rapidly in Florida. These frogs disrupt the ecosystem because they eat smaller native tree frogs. The native green treefrog (right) can change to brown coloring, thereby confusing identification. However, the Cuban tree frog has extra large toe pads and much wartier skin than natives. It also has a skin fold starting from the eye towards the tympanum.

All photos: Courtesy of Jan Shirey, NPS/VIP