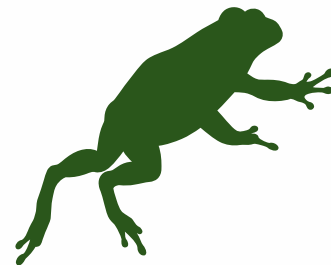
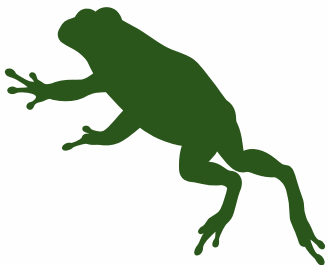


NOT-SO-SCARY SPECIES

WITH AMERICORPS MEMBER ALAYNA

FOWLER'S TOAD (*ANAXYRUS FOWLERI*)



Fowler's Toad (*Anaxyrus fowleri*) is a nocturnal species of amphibian that is native to the eastern USA and southeastern Canada. These slimy, bumpy creatures can be found in the wetland areas of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge and can be heard at night throughout the spring and summer!

WHY DO WE WANT THEM?

Fowler's toads keep insect populations in check, preying on ants, beetles, flies, & insect larvae. Tadpoles use their mouths to suction algae and bacteria off of submerged rocks, like tiny vacuums! Fowler's toads are also a food source for other native species, such as the threatened eastern hog-nose snake.

FUN FOWLER'S TOAD FACTS!

- All toads are frogs but not all frogs are toads! Toads are a type of frog that have shorter hindlegs, rougher skin, and poisonous eye glands.
- Females lay up to 20,000 eggs!
- Fowler's toad saliva converts from a watery substance to a thick, sticky substance when it launches its tongue to catch prey!

WHY SO LOUD?

Adult males advertise themselves to females by producing a loud "WAAAAH" call. You likely only hear this call at night in the spring and summer. This is due to the species' nocturnal nature and the fact that they burrow for almost 7 months in New England to survive the cold!

SHOULD I BE SCARED OF THEM?

Short answer: No! **However, all wildlife should be given a respectful distance when being observed.** If you are in a position where you need to pick up a toad, remember to **be gentle** and to **always wash your hands** after. Fowler's toads emit bufotoxin from the back of their neck when they feel threatened. While this will not harm your hands, it can cause nausea and mouth burning if ingested.

REFERENCES

- [HTTPS://WWW.INATURALIST.ORG/GUIDE_TAXA/2243116](https://www.inaturalist.org/guide_taxa/2243116) (PHOTO)
- [HTTPS://WWW.RECONNECTWITHNATURE.ORG/NEWS-EVENTS/THE-BUZZ/WHAT-S-THE-DIFFERENCE-FROG-VS-TOAD/](https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/news-events/the-buzz/what-s-the-difference-frog-vs-toad/)
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