



crawfish frog

Rana areolata

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Amphibia
Order: Anura
Family: Ranidae

FEATURES

The crawfish frog averages two and one-quarter to three inches in length. It has a short body and a large head. The male has vocal pouches on the sides of the throat. Dark spots on the back are circled by light borders. The belly is white, and the back is smooth. Dorsolateral folds are present along each side of the back. There is mottling on the upper jaws and a hump in the middle of the back. The tympanum (eardrum) is not wider than the eye.

BEHAVIORS

The crawfish frog lives in crawfish holes, small mammal burrows and holes in roadside banks in areas with hardpan, clay soil. Wet pastures and golf courses are preferred habitats. This frog is nocturnal, spending the daylight hours in burrows or tunnels. It breeds from March through mid-April but is dependent on temperature and rainfall. The male's call is a chuckling, deep snore. The female deposits about 7,000 eggs in shallow water in large, submerged masses. Hatching occurs in several days. The tadpoles transform into the land-based form in late June and early July. The crawfish frog eats crustaceans and insects.

HABITATS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> native | <input type="checkbox"/> exotic | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

southern 1/2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.