



spring peeper

Pseudacris crucifer

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata
Class: Amphibia
Order: Anura
Family: Hylidae

FEATURES

The spring peeper averages three-fourths to one and one-fourth inches in length. It has a dark, irregular, x-shaped mark on the back and a dark mark between the eyes. The body color is yellow, brown, gray or olive with a pinkish cast. A small adhesive pad is present at the tip of each toe.

BEHAVIORS

The spring peeper may be found statewide in Illinois. This small anuran lives in moist woodlands. It is seldom seen except when breeding. It lives in trees or on herbaceous plants. It is usually active at night. Breeding occurs from early March to early June. The male's call is a soft, birdlike whistle. The female deposits several hundred eggs singly, attaching them to submerged objects. Hatching occurs in a few days with transformation to the land-based form being completed in May and June. The spring peeper eats small arthropods (spiders, insects, mites and others).

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.