

western chorus frog *Pseudacris triseriata*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Family: Hylidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The western chorus frog averages three-fourths to one and one-half inches in length. It has three, broad, dark stripes down the back, and a dark stripe that runs from the snout to the groin and passes through the eye. A dark triangle or other dark coloring may be present between the eyes. A light line is found along the upper lip. The body color is gray, brown, green or olive.

BEHAVIORS

The western chorus frog may be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in prairies, cultivated fields and urban areas. This small frog is seldom seen after the breeding season. It breeds March through May, often in temporary ponds. The male's call is "crreek" or "prreep" which can be imitated by running a finger across the teeth of a comb. The female deposits about 100 eggs in clusters that are attached to objects in the water. Each female may deposit a total of 500 to 1,500 eggs. Eggs hatch in a few days. The tadpoles transform to the adult form in May and June. The western chorus frog eats small arthropods (spiders, insects, mites and others).

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

temporary water supplies

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie

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