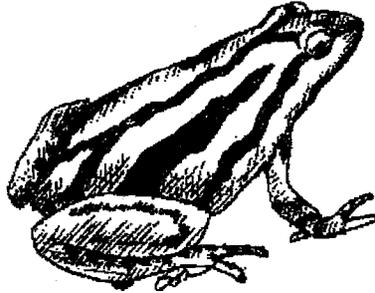


# Striped Chorus Frog

*Pseudacris triseriata*

Family Hylidae



**Global Rank:** G5

**State Rank:** S5 (AZ, CO, MT, NM, WY)

**Distribution:** Found from Great Bear Lake in Canada southeast to the Gulf of Mexico and most of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. In the West, it occurs in most of Alberta, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado, with extensions into Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. The boreal chorus frog (*p. t. maculata*) is the subspecies which occurs in most western states, and the midland chorus frog (*p. t. triseriata*) is the subspecies found in central Arizona and New Mexico. Throughout its range, it occurs in a wide variety of habitat types from deserts to above timberline.

**Description:** Adult frogs reach up to 1.5 in. (3.8 cm.) in snout-vent length. Key characteristics include long toes, small toe pads, limited webbing, usually three dark stripes or rows of spots on back, and a pointed snout. Coloration varies from green to brown, and they can lighten or darken their shading. Tadpoles reach up to 1.2 in. (3 cm.) total length. Key characteristics are eyes laterally placed, projecting beyond the margin of the head when viewed from above; coloration brown dorsally and



*Current range of the striped chorus frog*

white ventrally; dorsal fin arched; and intestines visible. Adult males have greenish yellow to dark olive throats with lengthwise folds of loose skin, and a round vocal sac. The voice is a loud, low-pitched *walk, walk, walk* at the same pitch.

**Reproduction:** Congregations of singing males initiate breeding season with loud distinctive calls. Choruses occur night and day during the height of the breeding season, and may continue from March to as late as August. Up to 1,500 eggs per clutch, laid in clusters of from 20 to 100 eggs are laid and glued to submerged vegetation. Larvae metamorphose in about two months and they become sexually mature after one to three years, depending upon elevation.

**Food:** Adult frogs eat a variety of small terrestrial arthropods. The larval forms of the striped chorus frog eat suspended matter, organic debris, algae, and plant tissue.

**Habits:** The frogs inhabit marshes, ponds, and small lakes in all life zones including lower elevations of the alpine zone, and are rarely found far from permanent water. While they can climb vertical surfaces using the suction cups on its toes, the striped chorus frog does not live in trees. They can hibernate or aestivate to escape adverse temperatures. When inactive, they hide in water, thick vegetation, under objects on the ground, or in rodent burrows. Local populations may include a few dozen adults or as many as tens of thousands of individuals. Tadpoles are preyed upon by garter snakes and tiger salamander larvae.

**Management Implications:** The population status throughout nearly all of its range is considered common. The frogs adapt well to human habitation, occurring on farms and in cities except in areas where pesticides have

been used heavily.

**Important References:** Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. The Peterson Field Guide Series, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY; Baxter, G.T., and M.D. Stone. 1980. Amphibians and reptiles of Wyoming. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne, WY; Groves, C.R., B. Butterfield, A. Lippincott, B. Csuti, and J.M. Scott. 1997. Atlas of Idaho's wildlife. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, ID.