

## Northern Leopard Frog

*Lithobates pipiens* (formerly *Rana pipiens*) (2.0 to 3.5 in.)

Status: Common but significantly declining

The northern leopard frog has a background color of green, tan or brown with scattered, large rounded dark spots bordered in light yellow, especially between the dorsolateral folds. Its ventral side is creamy white without yellow thigh or groin markings. The leopard frog's call is a loud, broken snore, somewhat like dragging your finger over a well-inflated balloon. This species breeds in a wide variety of wetlands, especially in fishless waters and may forage far from water in old fields and prairies. Northern leopard frogs experienced major die-offs in the early 1970s in the upper Midwest and the decline continues. Causes for the die-off remain unknown, but scientists have since noted that northern leopard frogs do not live as long as they once did (about 2 years versus 3-4 years). They also appear to lay far fewer eggs than in the past, which has reduced their reproductive potential.



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## Mink Frog

*Lithobates septentrionalis* (formerly *Rana septentrionalis*)

(2.0 to 2.75 in.)

Status: Special Concern but locally common and stable

The background color of the mink frog is green, olive or brown, often with spots or mottling on its back, sides and legs. The sides of the head and upper lips are bright green. Dorsolateral ridges may or may not be present but are rarely complete and almost always broken if present. This frog may sometimes be mistaken for the green frog, but typically lacks dorsolateral ridges, has barring on its back legs, and often has a distinct musk-like odor. Their call sounds like horses' hooves trotting on a cobblestone street. Mink frogs live only in northern Wisconsin and are associated with lakes and rivers. They prefer to rest on floating vegetation, like bog mats or lily pads, away from the immediate shoreline. Mink frogs breed in summer and deposit globular masses of up to 4,000 eggs in submergent vegetation.



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