

Spotted Marsh Frog

Limnodynastes tasmaniensis

Conservation status: least concern

What do they look like?

A medium sized frog that can grow up to 5cm. They have a grey-brown or olive-green back with dark green or brown patches and a white underbelly. They often also have a cream or red coloured stripe running across the middle of their back and a cream coloured stripe running from under the eye to the top of the arm. Males have a yellow throat during mating season. The pupil is nearly round and the iris is gold.

What to listen out for

Single sharps sounds described as a 'click' or 'plock'. They are most commonly heard calling from September to December, but can be heard throughout the year if there has been enough heavy rainfall or flooding.

Where to find them

The Spotted Marsh Frog lives in dams, ponds, marshes, flooded grasslands and even deep puddles on the side of roads, and are found around the coast of New South Wales and Queensland, the southeast of South Australia, most of Tasmania, and all of Victoria. They can even survive in the dry interior of Australia.

You can spot them in Bayside at the Tulip Street Pond (near the Sandringham Leisure Centre), Pobblebonk Park (George St, Sandringham) and Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve (Elsternwick). Listen for their calls in Spring and Autumn, or after heavy rainfall.

Life cycle

Typically breeds during Spring and Autumn, but can also breed in Winter if there is enough heavy rainfall. Females can lay up to 1,500 eggs as a foamy mass on the surface of dams, ponds or puddles, tucked under plants to protect them from predators. The eggs are tiny at only 1mm in size. Living at the bottom of water bodies, the tadpoles may grow up to 7cm long before becoming frogs 3 to 5 months after hatching. Tadpole colour ranges from light to dark gold-brown or a translucent gold.

References and Further Reading

<https://www.froglid.net.au/frogs/limnodynastes-tasmaniensis>

<https://backyardbuddies.org.au/backyard-buddies/spotted-grass-frog/>

<https://australian.museum/learn/animals/frogs/spotted-marsh-frog/>



HINT

Look for the cream or red stripe down the spine.



Did you know?

- The Spotted Marsh Frog is sometimes also called the Spotted Grass Frog.
- Female Spotted Marsh Frogs in South Australia seem unable to create foam in which to lay their eggs; instead they lay them in small foamless clumps.
- Spotted Grass Frogs are mostly active at night. They are ground dwelling and during the day will remain hidden beneath logs or rocks around water sources.

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