

Whistling Tree Frog (*Litoria verreauxi*)



Pupils: Horizontal



Toes: Toe pads present, wider than digits.



Eggs: Aquatic clumps in jelly, around submerged vegetation.



■ Range

□ North Central Region



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Other common names: Alpine Tree Frog (subspecies alpina), Verreaux's Frog, Whistling Tree Frog.

Adult description: The Verreaux's Frog varies in colour but is commonly light brown with a green stripe down the back and green stripe spreading down each side from the head. A dark stripe extends from the nostril, through the eye, to the base of the forearm. The belly is smooth and plain whitish colour. The back of the thighs and groin are yellow to red-orange. The groin has black spots or blotches. The adult frog is usually around 30 mm in length.

Calling: Males usually call from the ground, in low vegetation near the water's edge, or in the water, floating amongst the vegetation. The call is a rapidly repeated burst of 10-20 short notes with an almost whistling quality - "tweee tweee tweee tweee".

Breeding: Calling occurs all year round and increases during Autumn and Spring. Eggs and tadpoles can be found in still water in ponds, dams, lakes and roadside ditches.

Eggs & tadpoles: The female will lay between 500 - 1000 eggs in jelly-like clumps, which she attaches to submerged vegetation. The medium-sized tadpoles are clear yellow with darker areas. The fins are dusky dark grey or mottled to almost transparent. They grow to approximately 53 mm in length.

Eggs and tadpoles can be found in still water in ponds, dams, lakes, streamside ponds and flooded roadside ditches. Hatching occurs within a few weeks of spawning. Tadpoles take between seven and eight weeks to reach metamorphosis.

Habitat: The Whistling Tree Frog can be found in a wide variety of habitats, including urban gardens, flooded grasslands, or amongst wet marshy areas.

Conservation status & threats: Non-threatened. Potential threats include a decline in water quality, loss, fragmentation and disturbance of suitable habitat, cats, foxes, herbicides and pesticides. Potentially at risk from the Chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium*).

Interesting facts and features: The Whistling Tree Frog is a clumsy climber but a strong swimmer and a fair jumper.

