

Go Outside...Be amazed!



https://inaturalist.ca/taxa/25588-Rana-luteiventris/browse_photos

Columbia Spotted Frog *Rana luteiventris*

By Christine

Found only in our natural alpine and subalpine mountainous and foothill regions is the highly aquatic Columbia Spotted Frog. It is considered a 'true' frog (family *Ranidae*) with thin, smooth skin and small bumps, a slim body with distinctive light glandular ridges (dorsolateral folds) behind each yellow flecked eye extending down the lower back. This medium sized frog grows 4-10 cm in length (male smaller than the female) and is dark brown, green or grey with small dark irregular spots with lighter centers, and an underside that becomes salmon colored with maturity. It can live up to 10 years!

At our higher elevation the species is slower to mature, between 4 and 6 years of age, and breeds 2 to 3 times a year from April to June. The female prefers shallow permanent pools for mating in early spring and to lay her round egg mass of several hundred or more brown jelly covered eggs, preferring to return to familiar hatching pools. The viable eggs hatch into tadpoles in 1 to 4 weeks, depending upon the temperature. They generally overwinter as tadpoles and develop into frogs the following year.

Listen to the mating call...

https://www.ab-conservation.com/downloads/avamp/audio/rana_luteiventris_columbia_spotted_frog.mp3

The Columbia Spotted Frog prefers cool, permanent water sources such as slow moving streams, rivers, marshes, springs, pools, and the margins of small lakes. It even overwinters under water! The adult frogs forage for food both on land and in water, eating worms, insects, spiders, snails and crustaceans, and can travel hundreds of meters before returning to their wintering sites.

The Columbia Spotted Frog is currently a candidate for the Endangered Species List, vulnerable to both direct and indirect effects of habitat alteration and loss, and land and noise disturbance. These frogs are a good indicator of the health of our natural wetlands, mountainous and foothill regions as they are quite sensitive to their environment. The wetland ecosystems that they live in must be maintained and protected in order to prevent the decline in their numbers and to avoid developmental deformities brought on by air and soil contamination introduced into their environment.

Print and color this ribbiting frog...

<https://www.coloring.ws/t.asp?t=https://www.coloring.ws/animals/frogs/frog-6.png>

Resources:

https://canadianherpetology.ca/species/species_page.html?cname=Columbia%20Spotted%20Frog

https://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/205/301/ic/cdc/abnature/speciesatrisk/spotted_frog_intro.htm#:~:text=Since%201991%2C%20Spotted%20Frogs%20have%20been%20on,to%20non%2Dviable%20population%20levels%20in%20the%20province

<https://www.ab-conservation.com/avamp/identification-keys/juvenile-and-adult-amphibians-of-alberta/columbia-spotted-frog/>

<https://landpotential.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Columbia-Spotted-Frog.pdf>