

# **Key to Identification of Treefrogs**

## Squirrel Treefrog, *Hyla squirella*

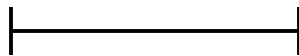
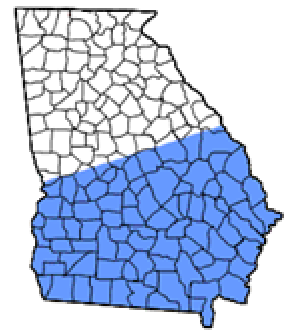
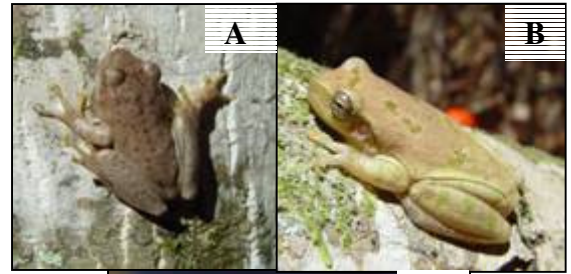
**Appearance:** Small, delicate, with smooth skin. Often referred to as a 'chameleon,' they are highly variable in coloration and pattern (A & B). They can be green or brown, or both, often (but not always) with a spot or dark bar between eyes. There also may be a light stripe (C) along the body, which may continue half-way or all the way to the posterior part of the body. Eyes are bright orange-yellow or bronze. Best method for identification is to eliminate all other possible species first.

**Size:** 7/8 – 1 5/8" (snout-vent)

**Habitat:** Common in many habitats such as: buildings, bushes, trees, vines, fields, gardens, almost anywhere close to moisture, food, and a hiding place.

**Range:** See map.

**Other:** Of all the treefrogs of N.America, this one has possibly the greatest power for rapid color change, and presents the greatest variety of colors and shades of color, wearing an array of costumes. These changes take place under the influence of various stimuli such as moisture, heat, and light. Quick and difficult to catch.



## Green Treefrog, *Hyla cinerea*

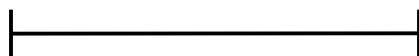
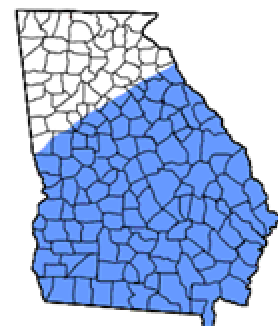
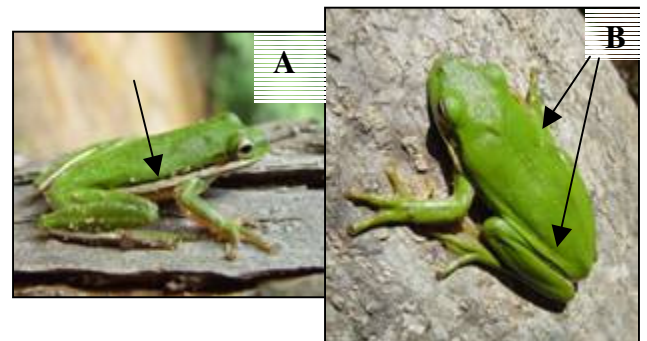
**Appearance:** One of the larger treefrogs. Very slender, smooth skin, bright green in color (some variation present), with a white or metallic yellow side stripe (A), pointed snout. Often with small gold or yellow spots on the back (B). The under surfaces are white or yellowish white. Color variations range from dark brownish green, bright pea-green or light greenish yellow. Tibia much longer than femur. The whole leg is one and a half times the length of head and body.

**Size:** 1 1/4 - 2 1/4" (snout-vent)

**Habitat:** Found at the margins of bodies of water, on broad-leaved aquatic plants, lily-pads, trees, bushes, vines, or on taller water plants in ditches or pools.

**Range:** See map.

**Other:** Gentle and not easily frightened.



## Gray Treefrog, *Hyla versicolor* or *H. chrysoscelis*

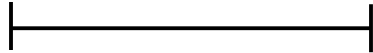
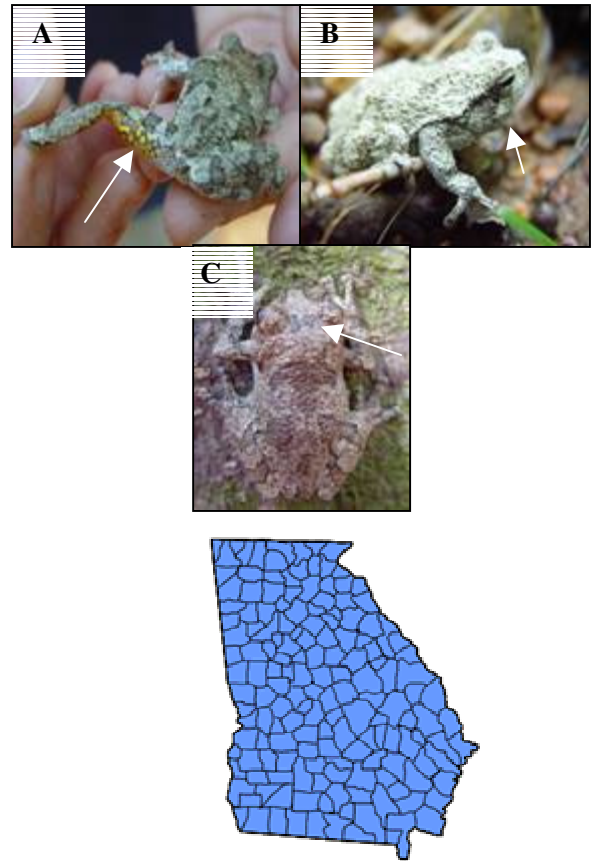
**Appearance:** Moderately large in comparison to other treefrogs. Head is broad and blunt, the body is fat and squat. Commonly gray in color although can vary through many shades of green and brown. Concealed surfaces of hind legs have bright orange (or golden yellow) spots on a mottled black background (A). On the head you should see a light spot below the eye (B) and an oblique dark band on the top of the head, above each eye (C). The skin is covered with relatively coarse tubercles, giving a 'warty' appearance, however, not as warty as the common toad (*Bufo*). Disks on fingers and toes are large and webbed. Characteristic markings may or may not appear when the background color is green.

**Size:** 1 ¼ - 2" (snout-vent)

**Habitat:** Found in wooded stretches along creeks and rivers, in relatively small trees or shrubs.

**Range:** See map.

**Other:** Note these two look-alike species of Treefrogs share the above characteristics and only by their voices can you tell them apart in the field.



## Barking Treefrog, *Hyla gratiosa*

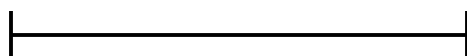
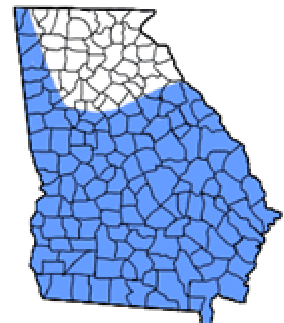
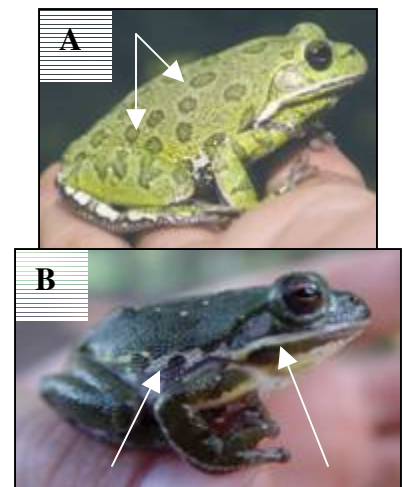
**Appearance:** Noted as the largest (and most spotted) of the native treefrogs. It is ashen gray, purplish, or green in color. The skin is thick and leathery, granulated over the whole upper surface as well as the lower. The back is evenly covered with elliptical or round spots darker than the general color and encircled with black (A). The color of frog can change, however the spots usually persist unless it turns a dark brown or pale green/yellow color. A light stripe extends along the sides of the body and is bordered by a purplish brown band (B).

**Size:** 2 – 2 5/8" (snout-vent)

**Habitat:** A high climber and burrower, common to trees of hammocks, pine barrens, and bays. In hot, dry weather, it often takes shelter in sand or soil beneath vegetation.

**Range:** See map

**Other:** One of the most marvelous color changes of all treefrogs, which can happen quite rapidly. Demonstrates a slow, relaxed behavior, often clinging to one's finger.



## Pine Woods Treefrog, *Hyla femoralis*

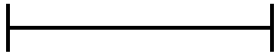
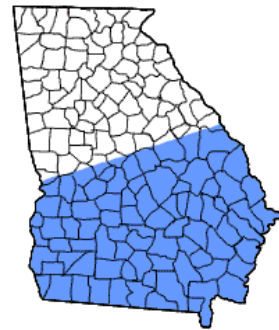
**Appearance:** A small treefrog that is commonly a deep reddish brown in color above, but may be gray or greenish gray. Dull white underneath, with a triangular dark spot between the eyes. There are distinct orange or grayish white spots on the rear of thighs (A), and although this frog resembles the Gray Treefrog, it is smaller and more slender.

**Size:** 1 – 1 ½" (snout-vent)

**Habitat:** Commonly found in trees or shrubs of pine flatwoods and in or near cypress swamps. Climbs high into trees, but also can be found near the ground.

**Range:** See map

**Other:** Can often be heard calling from the treetops in summer months. Call sounds like a telegraph.



## Bird -Voiced Treefrog, *Hyla avivoca*

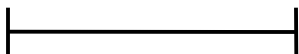
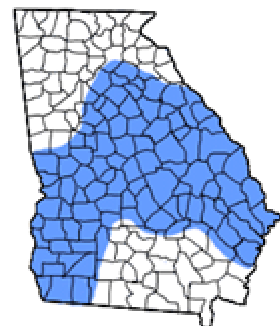
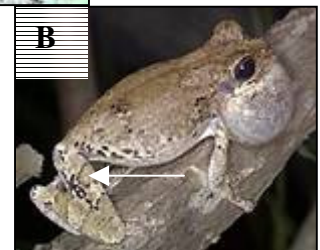
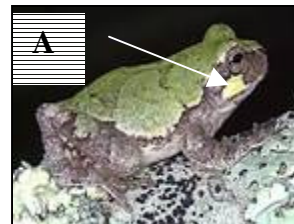
**Appearance:** Referred to as the smaller version of the Gray Treefrog, they are more slender, but are also gray, brown, or green and have a light spot beneath the eye (A). However, the concealed portions of the hind legs in the Bird-voiced Treefrog are washed with pale yellowish green to greenish- or yellowish white instead of orange (B). The arms and legs are distinctly barred, and the skin is moderately smooth, although occasionally can be finely granular.

**Size:** 1 1/8 – 1 ¾" (snout-vent)

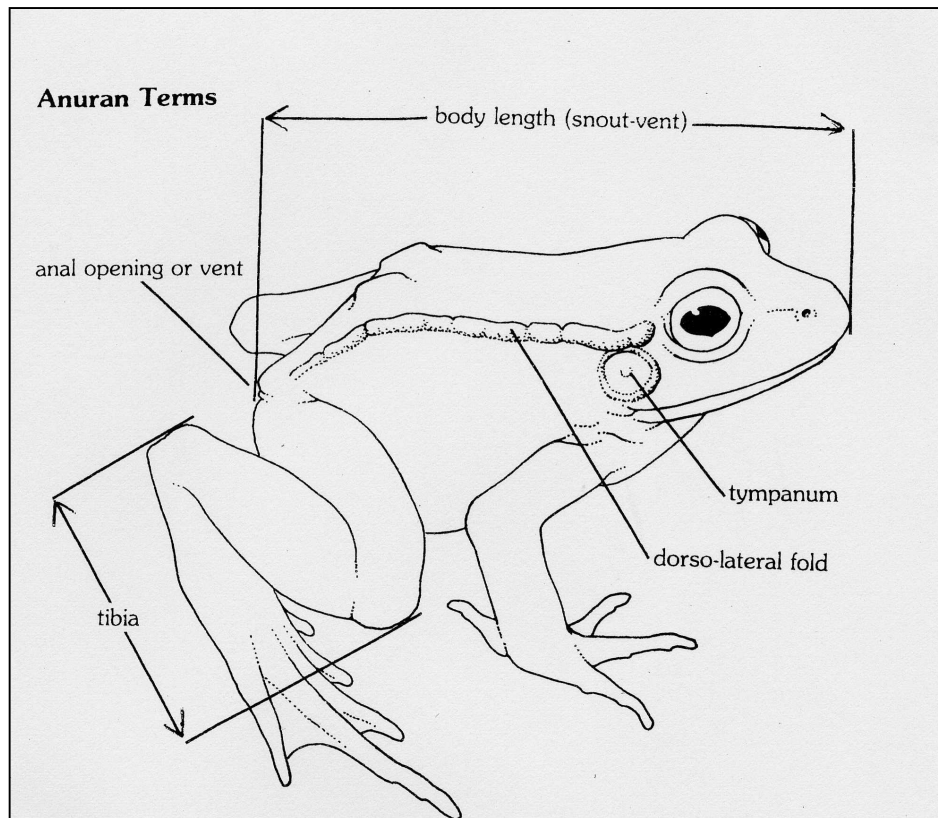
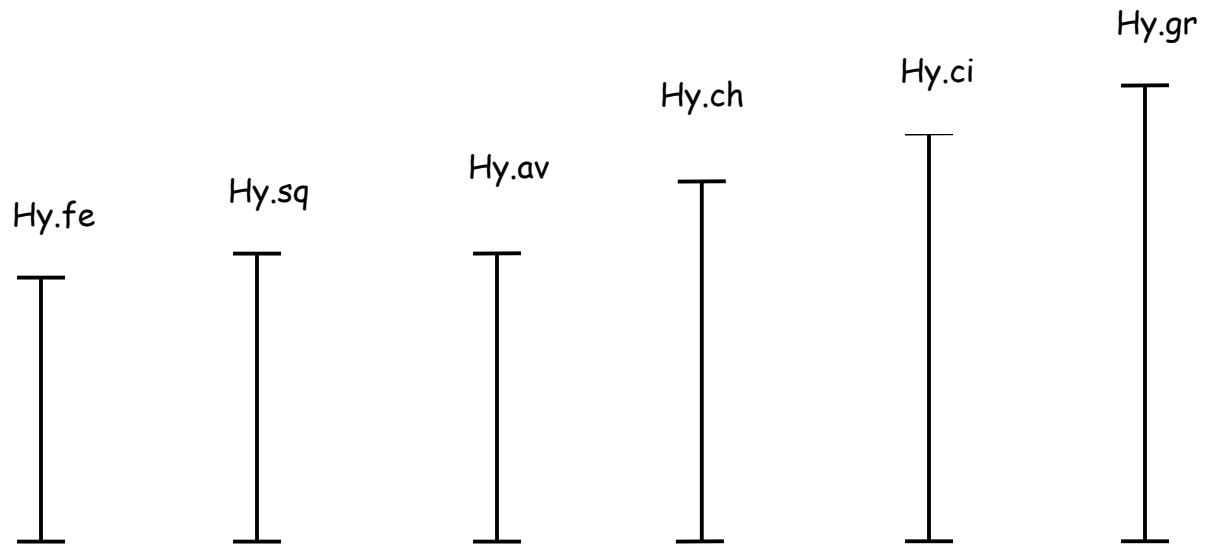
**Habitat:** Resides along many creeks and major waterways as well as in permanent wooded swamps of tupelo, cypress, birch, buttonbush, and vine tangles.

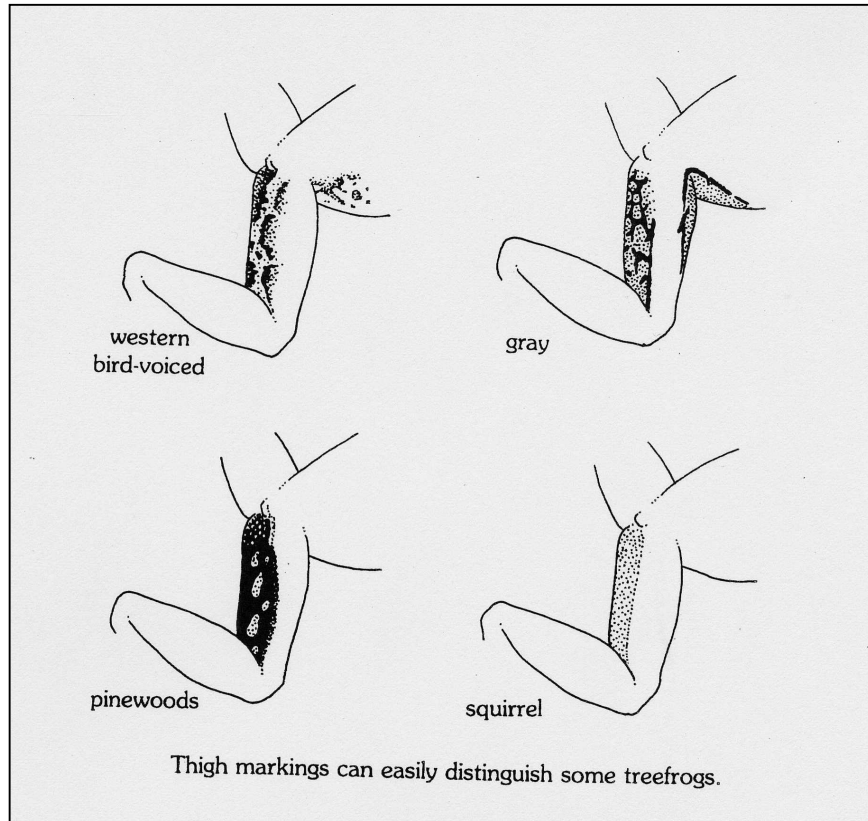
**Range:** See map

**Other:** Most often found in tree tops



# Frog Lengths





### References:

Conant, R. and J.T. Collins. 1998. Reptiles and Amphibians: Eastern/Central North America. Peterson Field Guides. Houghton Mifflin Company. U.S.A.

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