

Eastern Spadefoot

Eastern Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus holbrookii holbrookii*) - Pl.29

Identification: 1 3/4" - 3 1/4". The Eastern Spadefoot is brownish, with two yellow lines that curve down the back from each eye. These two lines are usually quite obvious; however, some spadefoots exhibit a high degree of melanism and the lines are very faint. Large yellow eyes have vertical pupils. On the inner side of each hind foot there is a sharp, black, arcing spade. The skin of the spadefoot is rather smooth for a toad, with a small number of tiny warts, and no obvious parotoid glands.

Where to find them: This species is found in forests or fields with sandy or loose soil.

When to find them: Active April through September. However, note that this species may stay burrowed underground, sometimes for years, only to come to the surface after warm, heavy rains.

Voice: A short, low, nasal honk, like a young crow's squawk.

Range: Southern Region with one historic record from Warren County.

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Key Features

- Large yellow eyes that protude from head.
- Vertical pupil.
- Sharp, black spade present on each foot.



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Excerpt from: "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey"
Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>