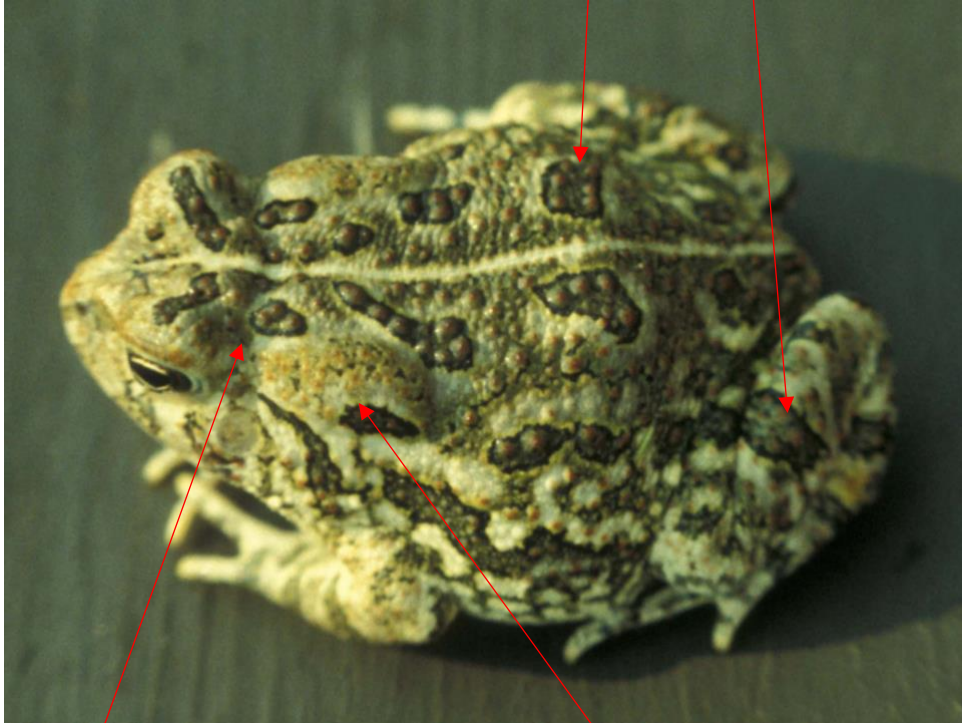


Fowler's Toad Identification in Vermont

The most useful characteristics we have found for identifying Fowler's Toad adults in Vermont include:

Multiple (usually 3-7) *small* warts in each dorsal and tibial spot in Fowler's Toads. American Toads may also have multiple warts in dorsal and tibial spots. There are no large warts within any spots on Fowler's Toads. There are large warts in at least some of the dorsal and tibial spots on American Toads.

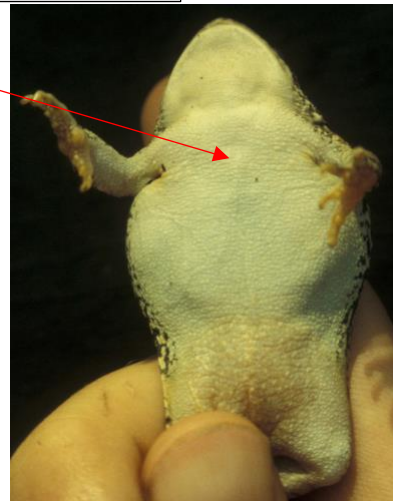


Postorbital crests are not prominent and *touch parotoid glands* (in American Toads, the postorbital crests are prominent, and are separated from the parotoid glands or connected by a spur)

Parotoid glands are *low* (not prominent) and *oval* (American Toads parotoid glands are often kidney shaped)

Calls: The Fowler's Toad's call is an unmusical "waaa" (like a sheep in distress), while the American Toad's call is a long musical trill lasting up to 15 seconds.

Ventral surface is *white* or *has one central spot* in the pectoral region (American Toads have black spots on the ventral surface)



Other characteristics for identifying Fowler's Toads in the literature:

- Cranial crests lack the posterior knob (extension of the cranial crest posterior to the postorbital crest)
- Skin smoother, less spinous, particularly on the tibia
- Smaller, lighter in color (green/gray/white)
- Blunter snouts

Eggs: there is a jelly membrane between each egg on American Toads (no jelly membrane separating individual eggs on Fowler's Toads).

Metamorphs: The literature mentions that metamorphs can be difficult to identify because some diagnostic adult characteristics (like belly speckling) don't develop until animals are larger. Some mention that Fowler's Toad metamorphs are usually grayish overall (while American Toads have shades of brown).

In our own collection of metamorph and small juvenile photographs, we see that many of Vermont's American Toad metamorphs and small juveniles do not show prominent cranial crests, postorbital ridges, parotoid glands, or large warts. We suspect that these characteristics become prominent over time.