



Invasive Reptiles and Amphibians

11A

Bullfrog

Photo: Joy Viola, Northeastern
University, Bugwood.org

11B

Red-Eared
Slider
Turtle

Photo: Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia,
Bugwood.org



Joy Viola, Northeastern University, Bugwood.org

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Species: *Lithobates catesbeianus* (Shaw)

American bullfrogs are indiscriminate feeders and will eat anything smaller than themselves, including ducklings, fish, mice, frogs, and small turtles. They are not native to Montana and have been implicated in the decline of native frogs, turtles, and waterfowl production. Bullfrogs are rarely seen far from the water's edge and are usually in the water of ponds, wetlands and rivers. Their loud, deep "jug o'rum" call can be heard from a considerable distance. Adult bullfrogs may reach a body length of 8 inches, and are dark green or brownish-green above with dark blotches and a cream underbelly. Bullfrogs do not have ridges along the sides of their back, but do have prominent ridges running from their eyes over their external ear drum to their shoulders. Tadpoles are olive-green above, and cream below, and may grow to 4.5 inches in length. In Montana, bullfrogs breed during warm weather in June and July. Eggs hatch in about 4 or 5 days. The tadpole stage may last 3 years, but metamorphosis has been observed in early June. Bullfrogs are prohibited species in Montana. You can stop the spread of this species by not purchasing or releasing pet bullfrogs, and by reporting any field observations to your local Fish, Wildlife & Parks office. For more information and to visit the source link to:

<http://fieldguide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=AAABH01070>

Photo: Russ Ottens,
University of Georgia,
Bugwood.org



Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Class: Reptilia

Order: Testudines

Species: *Trachemys scripta elegans* (Wied-Neuwied)

Red-eared sliders are a common pond turtle native to southeast U.S. It is familiar looking with a dark green oval shell, green legs and a green head with a red stripe behind its eye. They can grow to 11 inches in shell length, and can live up to 30 years. However, red-eared sliders in the wild of Montana are invaders, and are likely discarded pets. These turtles are highly aquatic and seek out quiet waters with plant growth and basking sites, and are quick to "slide" back in to the water if disturbed. Red-eared sliders may be able to outcompete Montana's native painted turtle, and are listed as one of the world's top 100 invaders. Red-eared sliders eat aquatic plants, crayfish, snails, insects, and carrion. The female turtle lays 2-23 eggs in holes that they dig in the ground around June, and when the young turtles hatch, they must fend for themselves and head straight to water. Incubation takes up to 80 days. Red-eared sliders are prohibited in Montana, and you can stop the spread of this species by not purchasing or releasing pet Red-eared sliders, and by reporting any field observations to your local Fish, Wildlife & Parks office. For more information and to visit the source link to:

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=1261>

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Northeastern University,
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