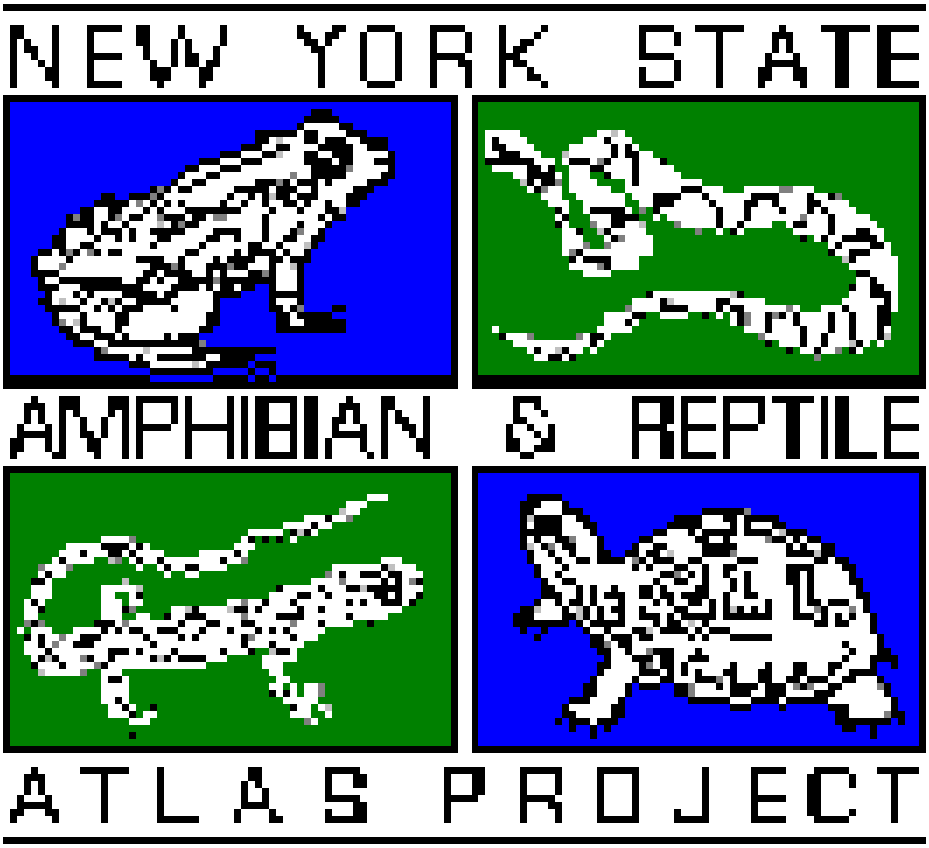
NYSDEC Herp Atlas Project

Toads & Frogs Distribution Map



NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

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About The Herp Atlas Project

The word "herp" is short for herpetofauna, which is the general term for amphibians and reptiles as a group. Frogs, toads, and salamanders are amphibians. Turtles, snakes, and lizards are reptiles.

The Amphibian & Reptile Atlas Project (Herp Atlas) was a ten-year survey (1990-1999) that was designed to document the geographic distribution of New York State's herpetofauna. There are approximately 70 species of amphibians and reptiles in New York State. They occur in a wide variety of habitats from the Adirondack Mountains to the Finger Lakes to Long Island's ocean waters, as well as in the cities and suburbs in between. Records prior to 1989 were also sought, and together the data was combined to form an overall NYS herpetological database.

The unit of measurement for collecting atlas data is the USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle. The goal was to record at least 20 species in each of these quadrangles. Some quadrangles, such as those in the lower Hudson Valley, have many more species present. Others, such as those in the Adirondacks and where there are high human populations, have fewer.

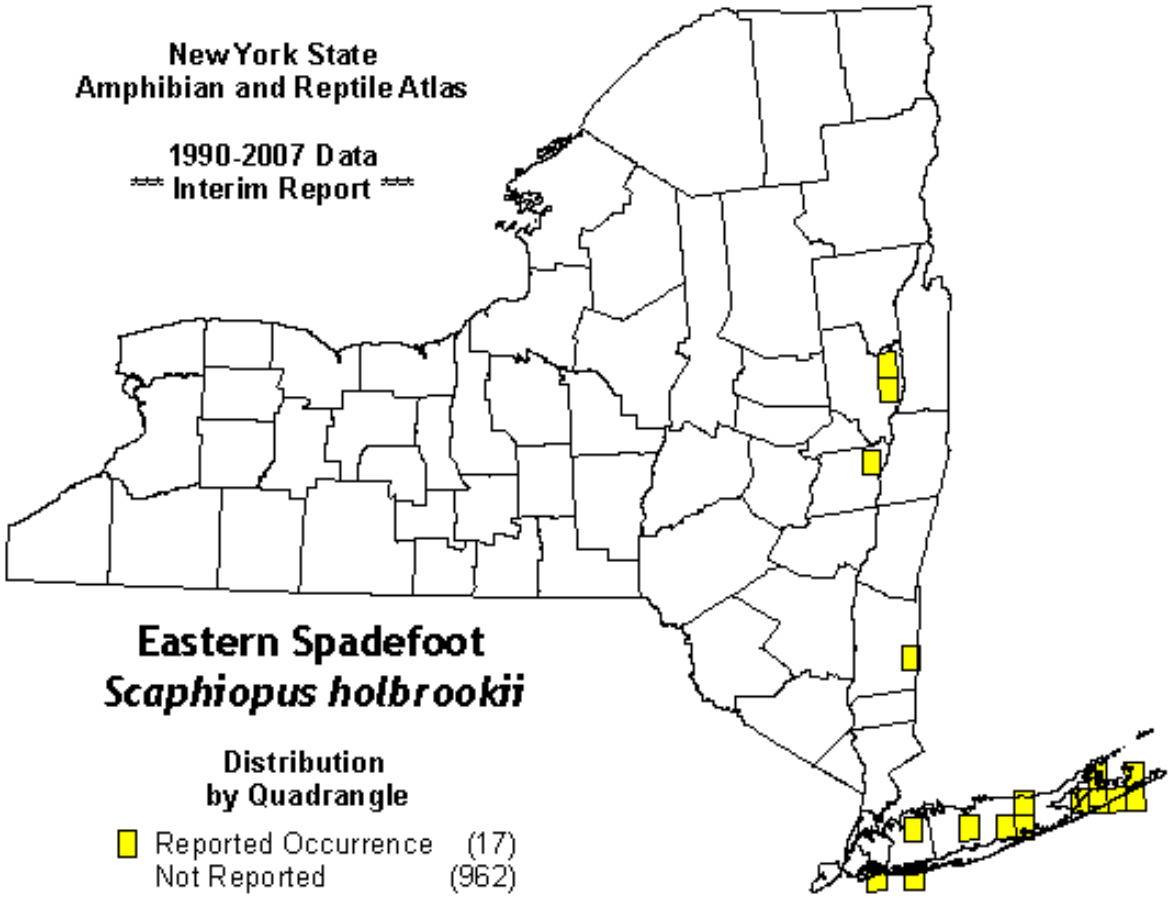
Purpose of the Herp Atlas Project

In order to monitor changes in populations and to make sound management decisions, we must have a reliable information base from which to work. The information gathered on the current status of our populations will help us to document what changes may be taking place.

In the past decade or two there has been much discussion concerning the status of populations of amphibians. While there seems to be a general decline in this group of animals, long-term monitoring projects are the only way to address this problem with scientific accuracy.

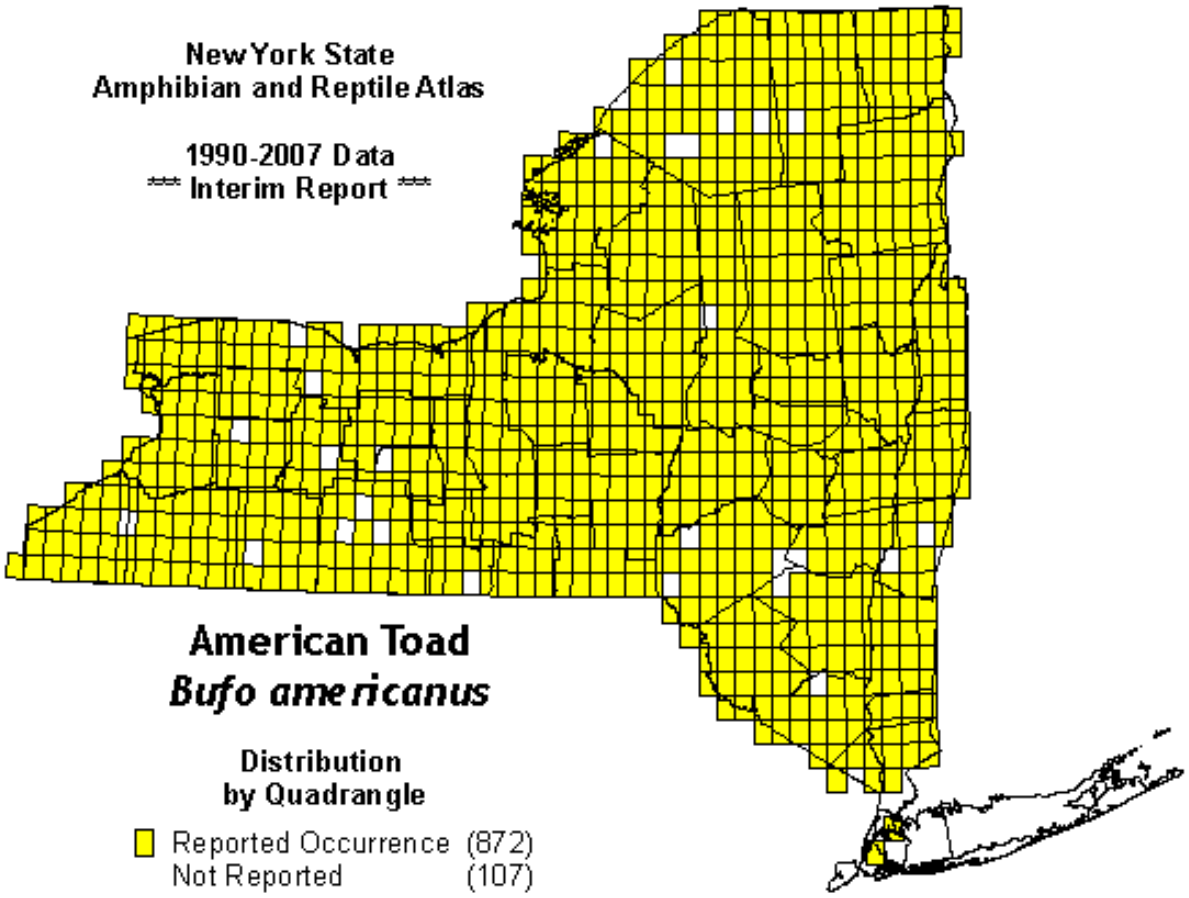
Eastern Spadefoot

Scaphiopus holbrookii



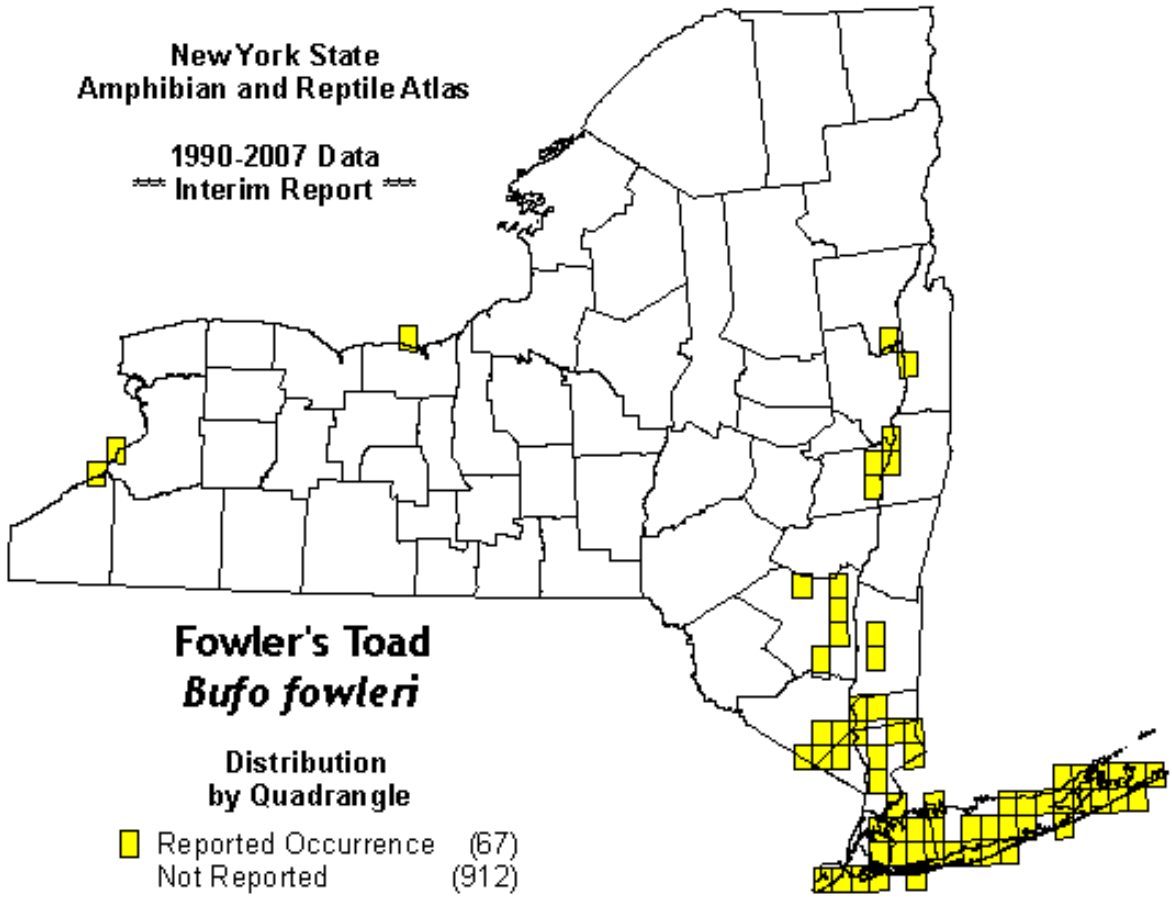
Eastern American Toad

Bufo a. americanus



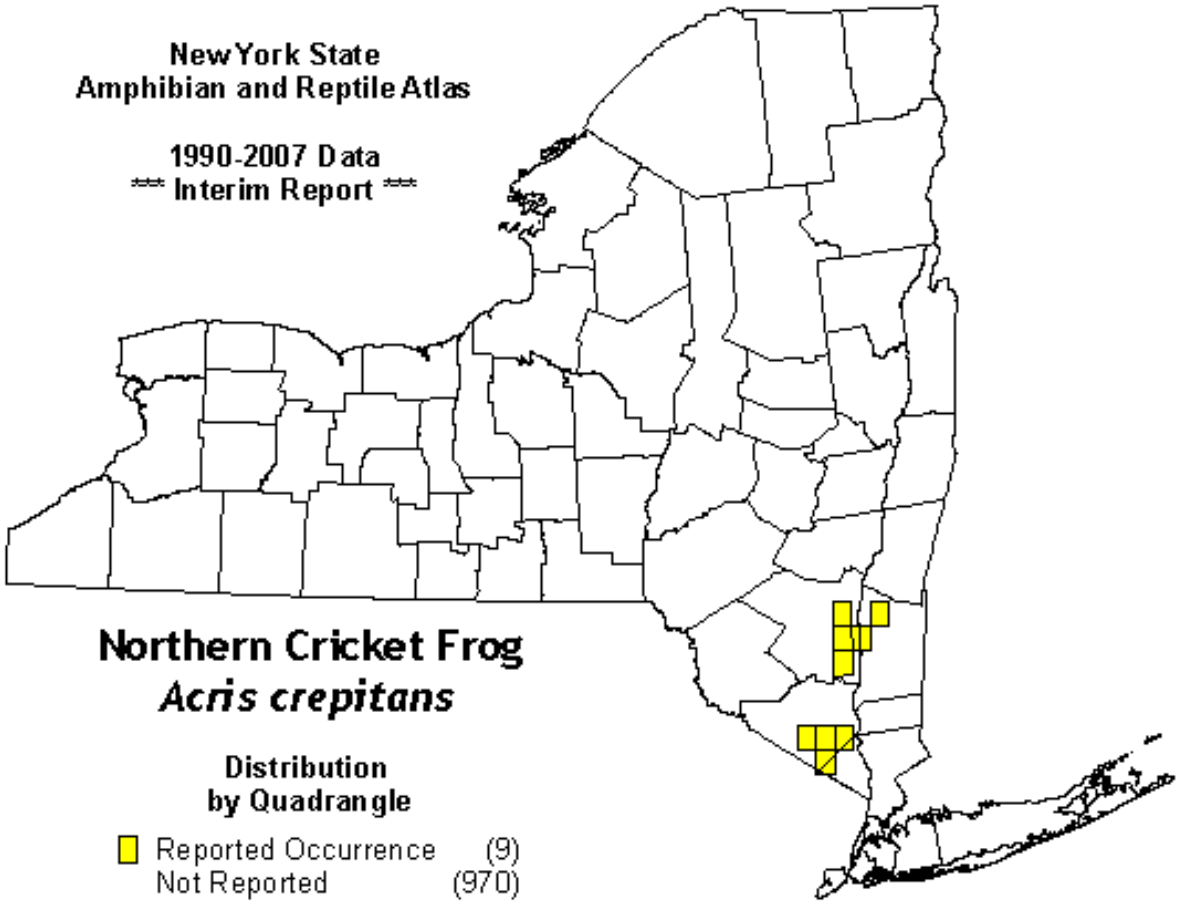
Fowler's Toad

Bufo fowleri



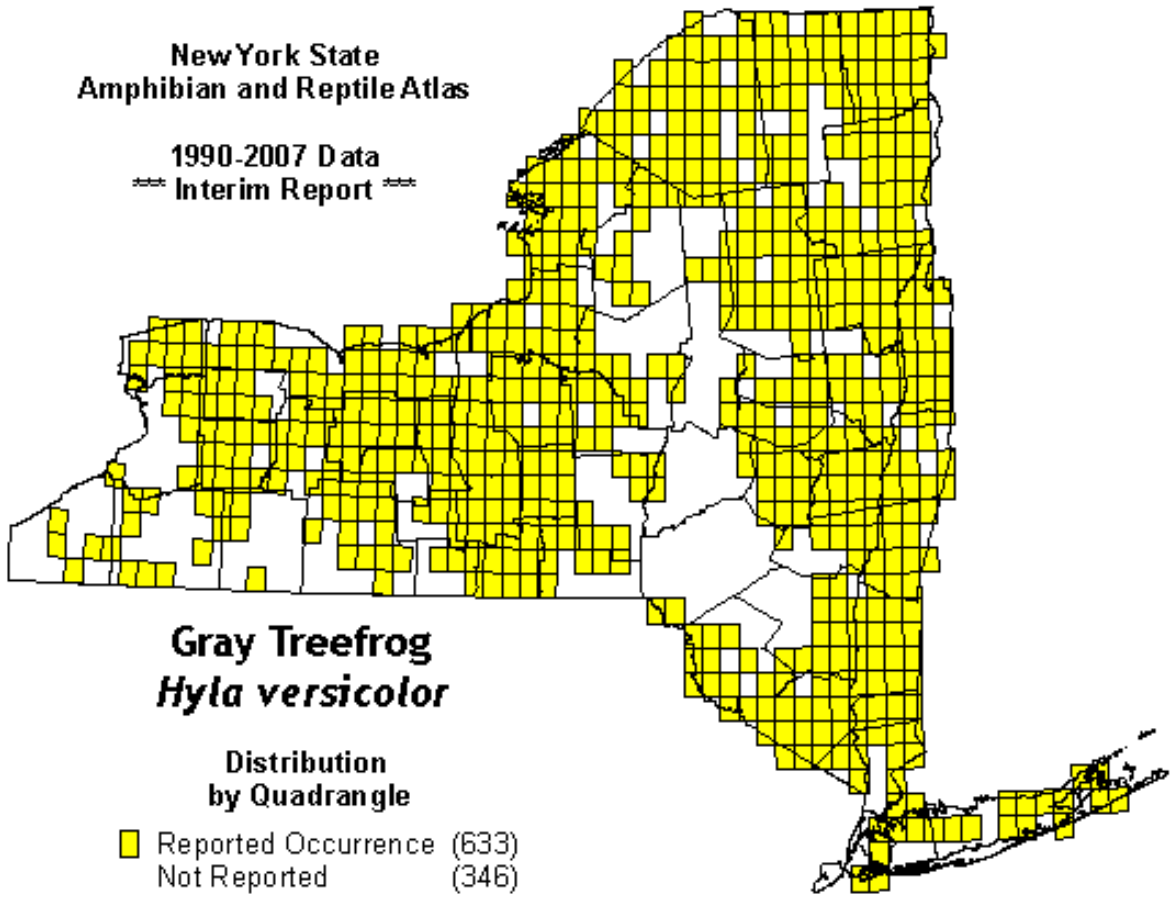
Northern Cricket Frog

Acris c. crepitans



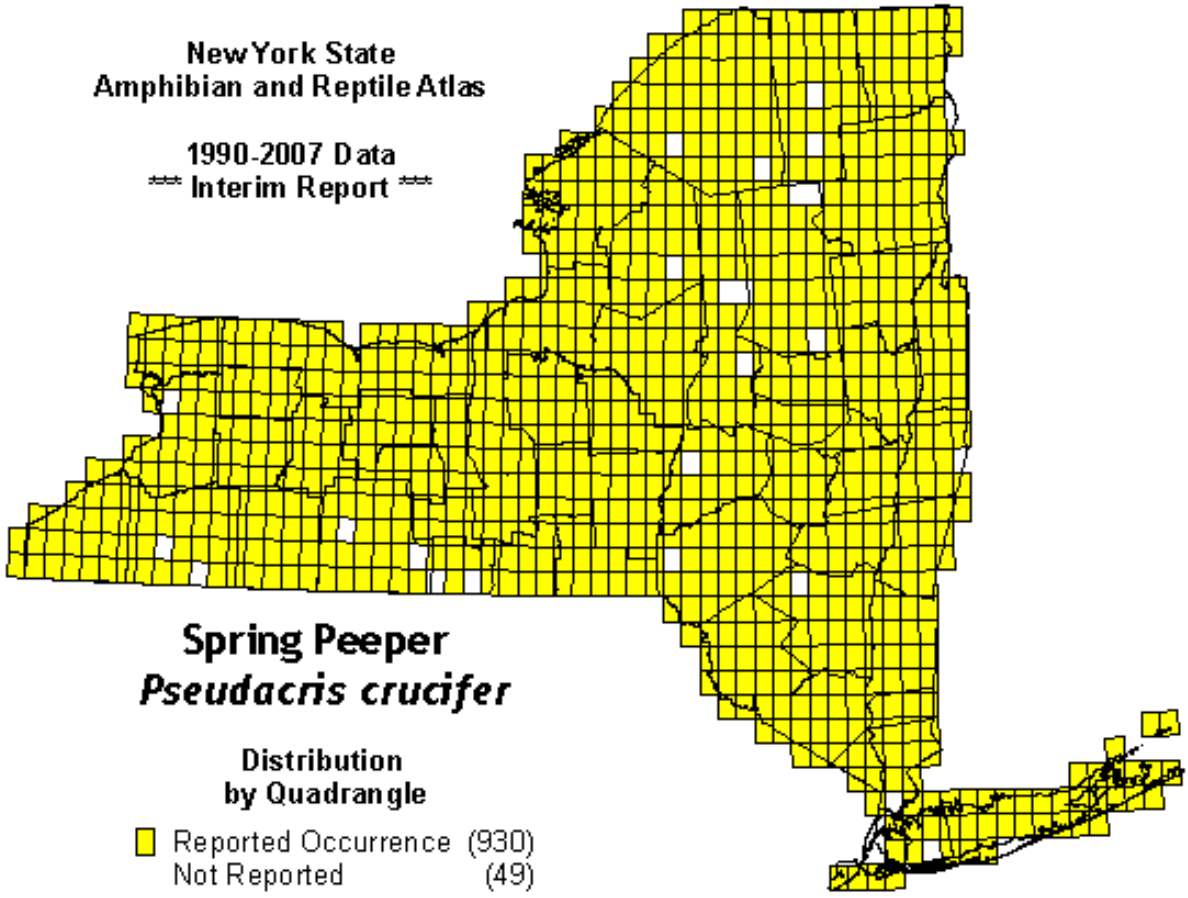
Gray Treefrog

Hyla versicolor



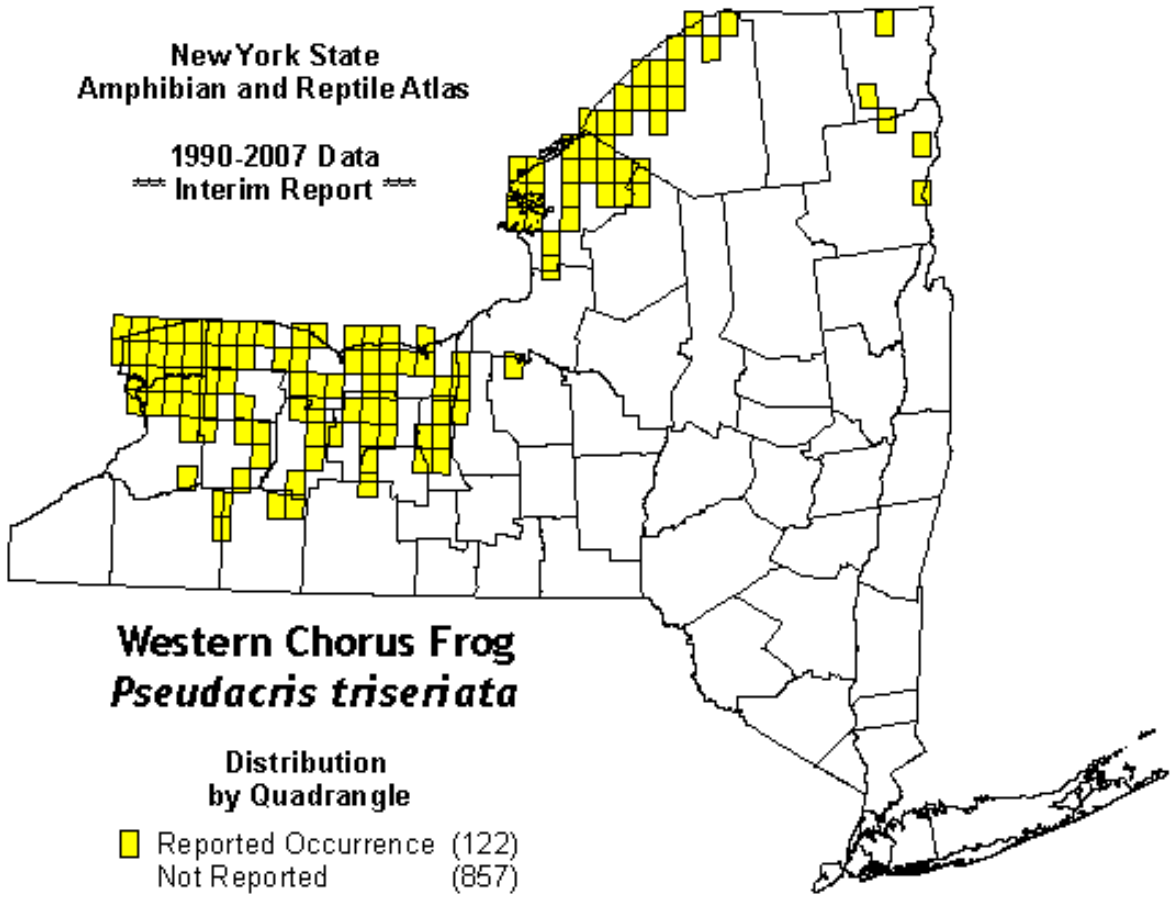
Northern Spring Peeper

Pseudacris c. crucifer



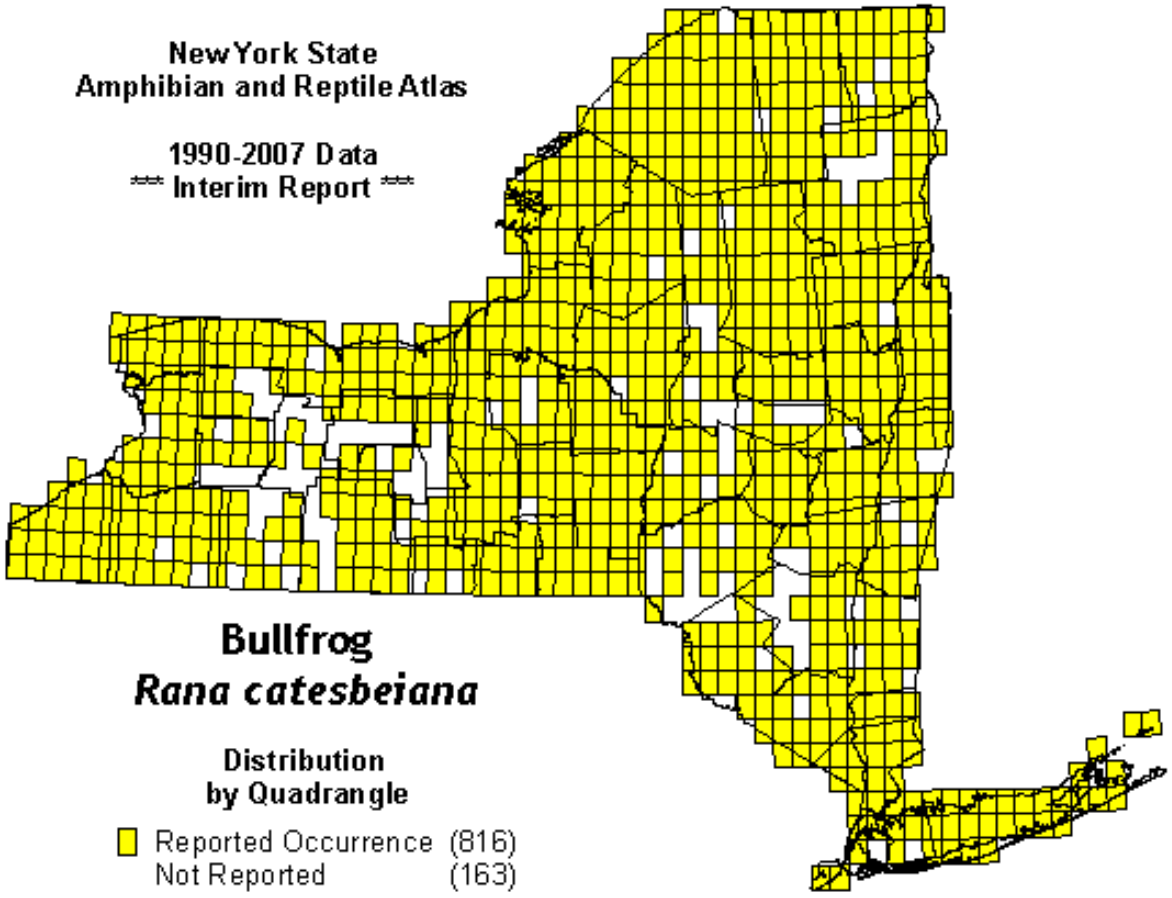
Western Chorus Frog

Pseudacris triseriata



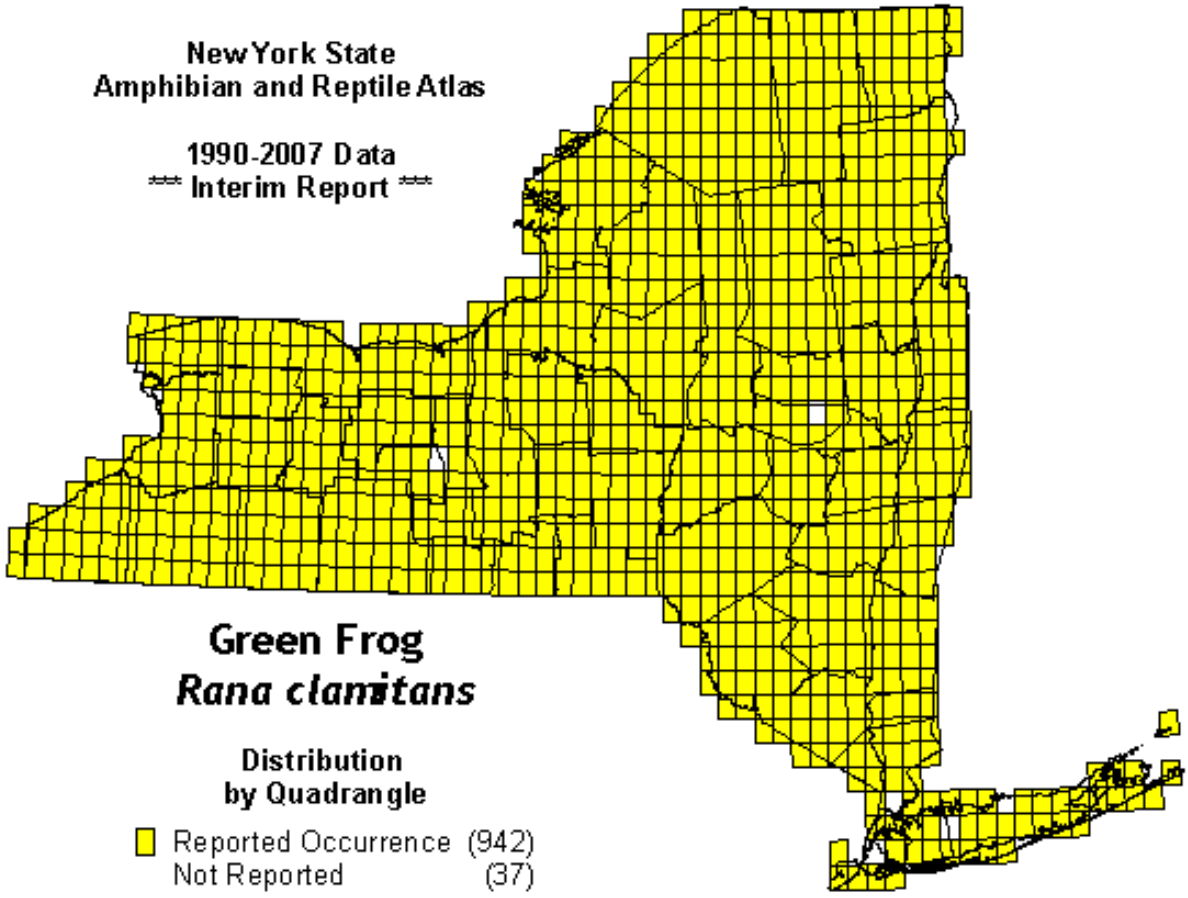
Bullfrog

Rana catesbeiana



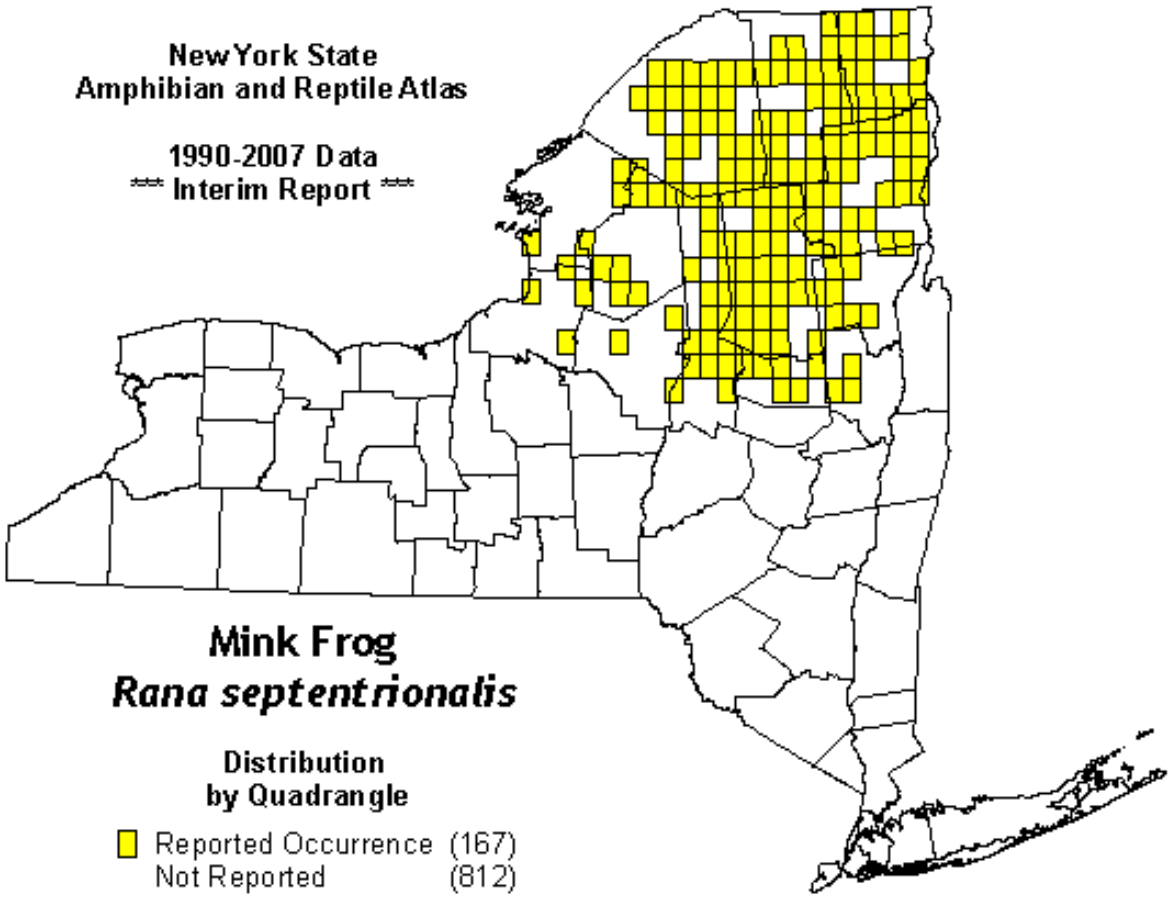
Green Frog

Rana clamitans melanota



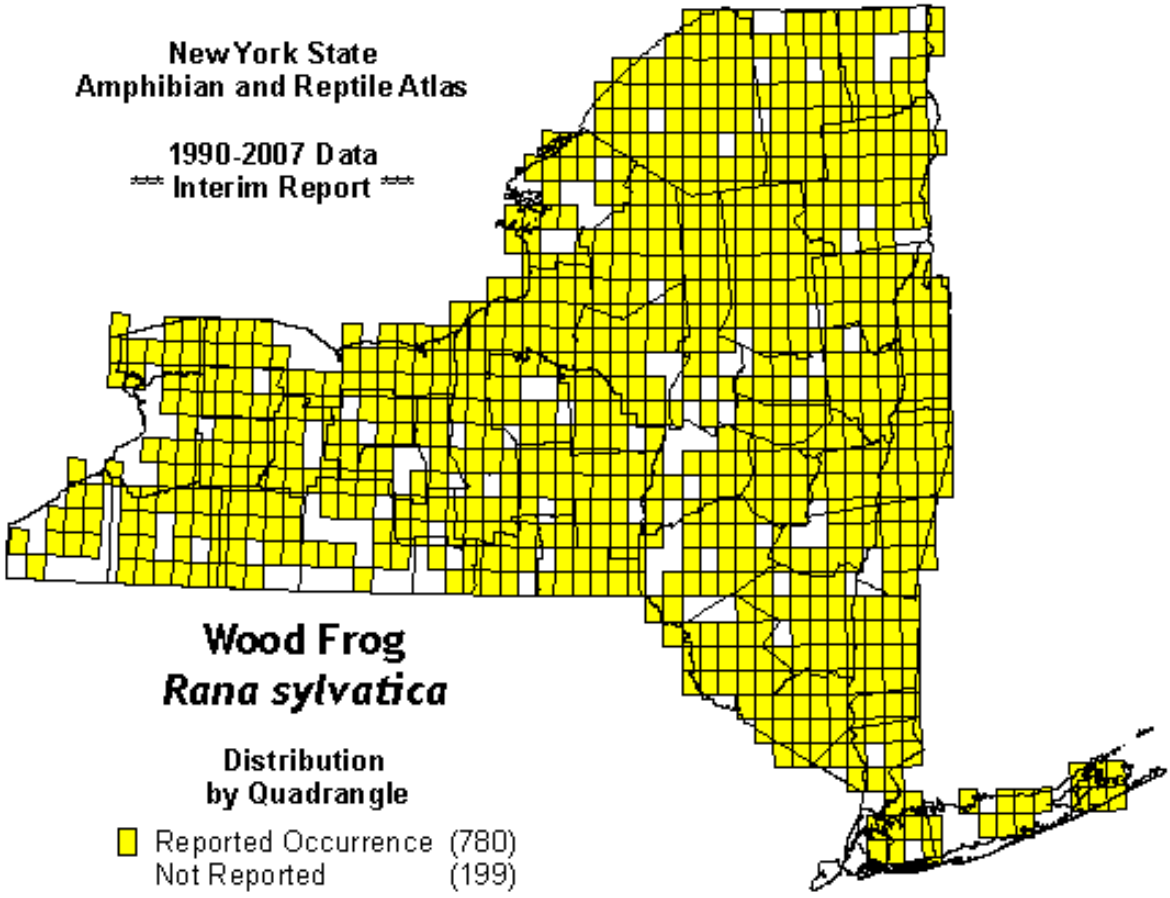
Mink Frog

Rana septentrionalis



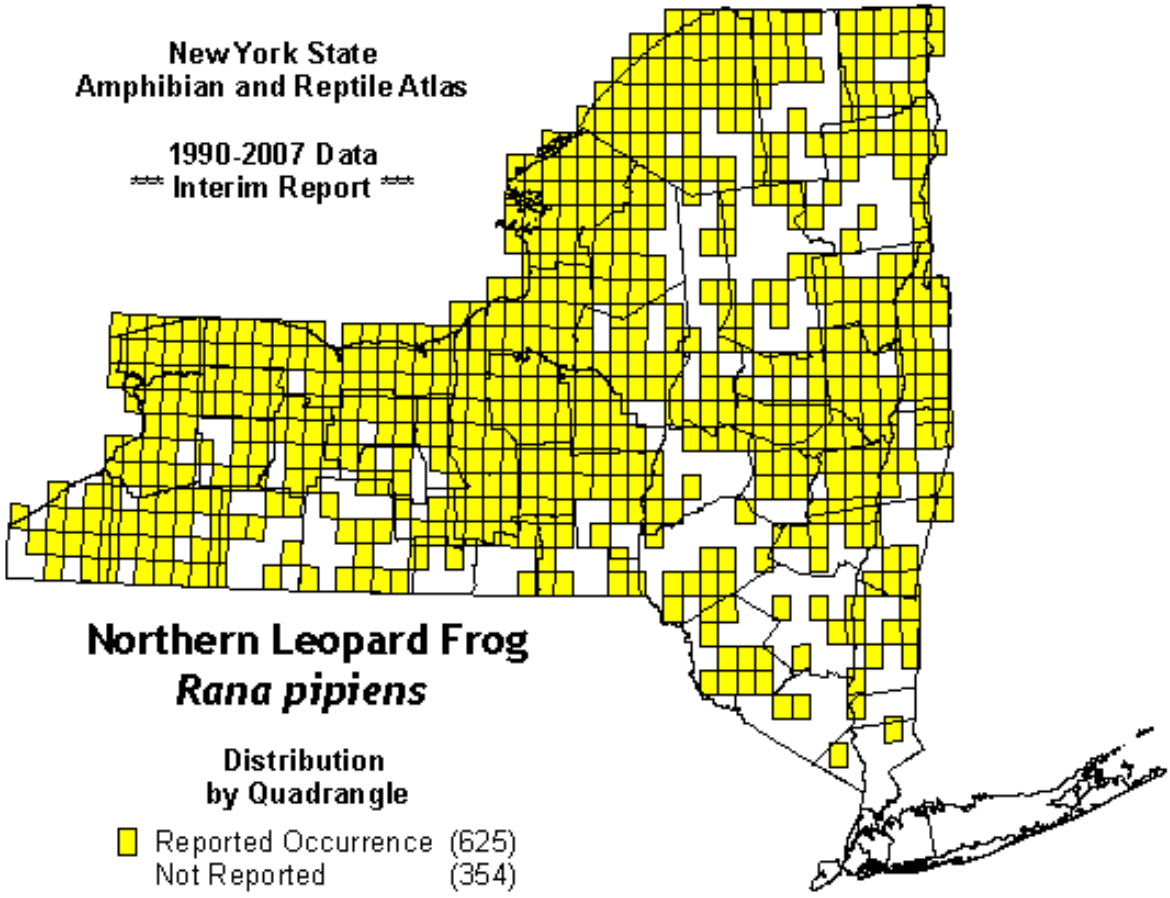
Wood Frog

Rana sylvatica



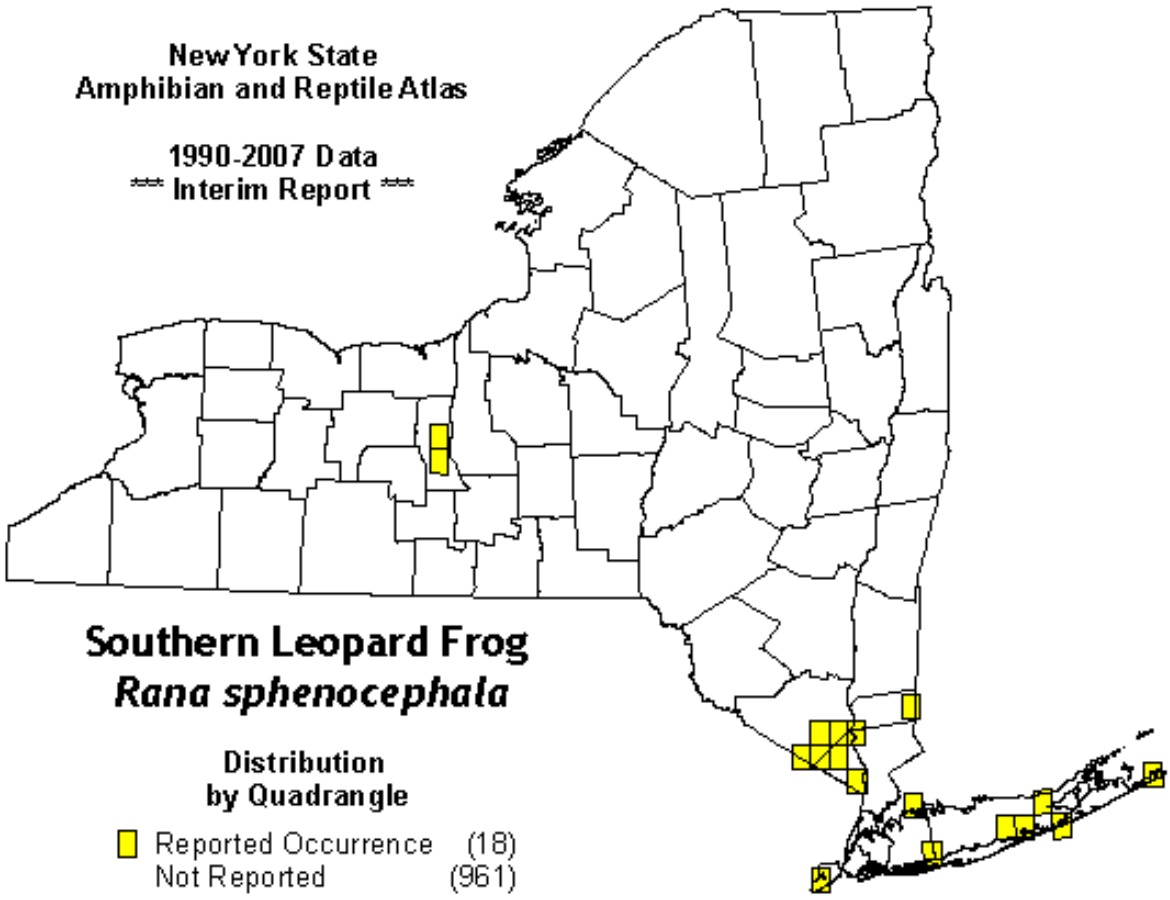
Northern Leopard Frog

Rana pipiens



Southern Leopard Frog

Rana sphenocephala utricularius



Pickerel Frog

Rana palustris