Woodhouse's toad

Bufo woodhousei woodhousei

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Amphibia
Order:	Anura
Family:	Bufonidae

Features

Woodhouse's toad grows to more than four inches long. It has three or more warts or bumps in each of the large dark spots on the back. The chest and belly are cream-colored and not spotted. The parotoid glands (appears as bumps under the skin) on the upper back touch the ridges behind the eyes. The body most often is brown or gray, but may be greenish or brick red. A light stripe usually is present in the middle of the back.

Natural History

Woodhouse's toad is more adapted to dry climates than the American toad and is nearly limited, in western Iowa, to the loess hills and the adjacent Missouri River floodplain. It eats insects, spiders, and worms. It is active mainly at night. It breeds from May to June. The male's call is a sheep like, flat "wa-a-a-a," almost like the cry of a newborn child. Each female may deposit in a variety of wetland types, up to 25,000 eggs in long strings. Hatching occurs in about one week. Tadpoles transform into froglets from late June through July.

Habitats

Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; wet prairies and fens; temporary water supplies; bottomland forests

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

western third of Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.