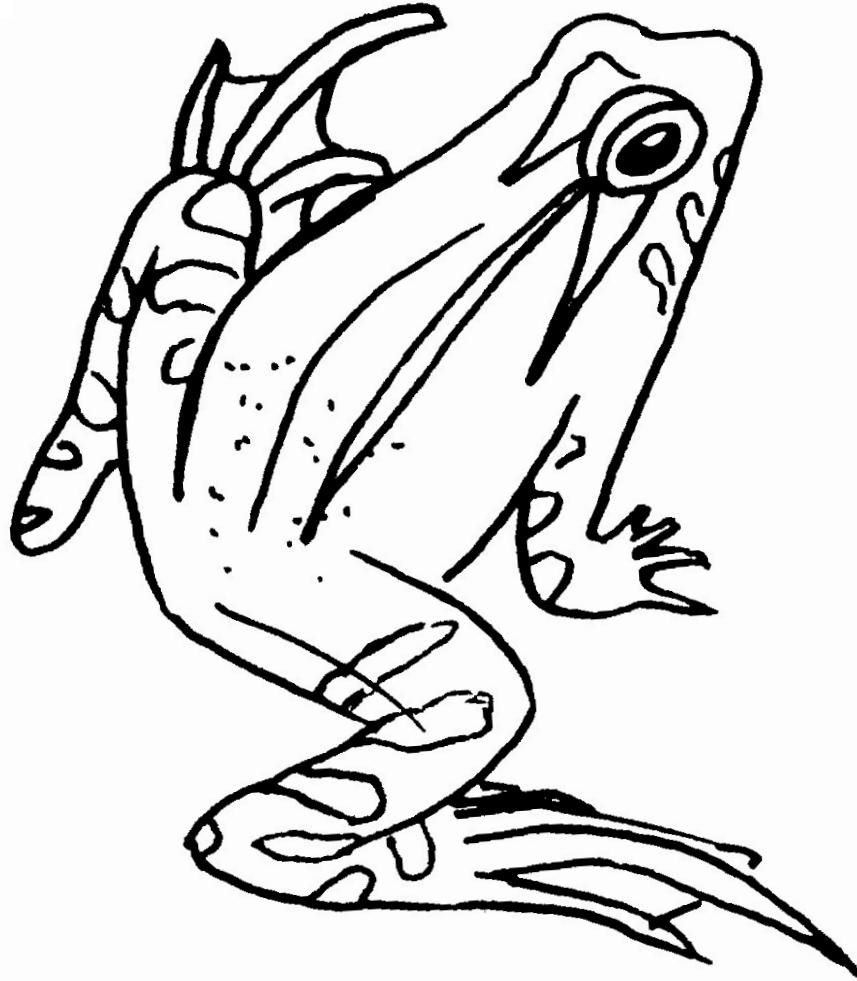




PA's Amphibian and Reptile Coloring Series

Northern Cricket Frog



All About Me: Hello there! You may have to look twice to see me, I'm a Northern Cricket Frog. Our color and small size allow us to hide easily. We average only one-half to one and a half inches long. We are active during the day and when not basking in the sun, we go foraging for food. Although we're in the treefrog family, we spend our time on the ground because we don't have the sticky toe pads that other treefrogs do. Our skin is rough and warty. Our base color is gray with dark stripes running down each side of our backs. A dark, triangular patch is located between our eyes. A dark stripe runs along our thighs. Our legs are short with widespread webbing across the hind feet. Our heads are rounded. Our pupils are flattened and horizontal. We are mostly terrestrial. We hop among sedges and grasses at the water's edge. When we need to return to the water, we prefer sun-drenched ponds with vegetation in and along the water. We can also be found near slow-moving streams, squatting on sandbars or gravel banks where we warm ourselves in the glow of midday. When frightened, we quickly dive beneath the surface of the water where we bury into the mud. Our males make a call that starts slowly, picks up speed and does not stop until 20 or 30 clicks have been pushed out of the pouch, and sounds like a cricket. The call has also been described as two small stones rapidly clicked together. We eat insects and have a knack for catching them mid-air. We are found in southeastern PA.