Amphibians in the oak woodlands of Lake County, Illinois

**Blue-Spotted Salamander**  
*Ambystoma laterale*  
**Size:** 3–5.5 inches long  
**Identification:** greyish-black with blue flecks across its back; elongated body  
**Diet:** insects, slugs, earthworms, spiders, snails, centipedes

**American Toad**  
*Anaxyrus americanus*  
**Size:** 2–3.5 inches long  
**Identification:** varies from yellow to brown to black depending on habitat colors, humidity, stress, and temperature; makes high trill lasting 6–30 seconds; secretes mild poison, not dangerous to humans unless ingested, to discourage predators  
**Diet:** insects, mealworms, earthworms, spiders, slugs, centipedes

**Bullfrog**  
*Lithobates catesbeianus*  
**Size:** 3.6–6 inches long  
**Identification:** olive-green above and white or yellow beneath; large eyes  
**Diet:** eats rodents, small reptiles, amphibians, crayfish, birds, bats, and insects

**Chorus Frog**  
*Pseudacris maculata*  
**Size:** 1.6 inches long  
**Identification:** smooth skinned; greenish-grey, reddish, olive, or brown; three dark-brown or grey stripes; cream-colored underside; very little webbing between toes  
**Diet:** flies, mosquitoes, ants, beetles, moths, caterpillars, grasshoppers, spiders
Tiger Salamander
*Ambystoma tigrinum*

**Size:** 6–8 inches long
**Identification:** greyish-black, with drab yellow-green blotches; large, lidded eyes
**Diet:** eats insects, worms, small mammals, and small frogs

Green Frog
*Lithobates clamitans*

**Size:** 2–3.9 inches long
**Identification:** greenish-teal, but males have bright yellow throats; makes noise similar to plucked banjo string;
**Diet:** eats insects, spiders, fish, crayfish, shrimp, other frogs, tadpoles, small snakes, and snails

Northern Leopard Frog
*Lithobates pipiens*

**Size:** 4.3 inches long
**Identification:** primarily green or brown with dark spots; makes snore-like call
**Diet:** eats crickets, flies, worms, and smaller frogs

Spring Peeper
*Pseudacris crucifer*

**Size:** 1–1.5 inches long
**Identification:** tan or brown with dark cross on back; large toe pads for climbing; named because they start calling at the beginning of spring; present in the region, but some populations have become locally extinct
**Diet:** beetles, ants, flies, spiders

Wood Frog
*Lithobates sylvaticus*

**Size:** 2–2.8 inches long
**Identification:** individuals can vary in color between brown or tan; dark eye mask; yellow or green belly; extirpated before being reintroduced in Lake County—but thriving in other parts of its range.
**Diet:** spiders, beetles, moth larvae, slugs, snails