

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Thursday, Jan 14
Partly Cloudy
High --62 Low -- 42

Friday, Jan 15
Showers
High -- 55 Low -- 42

Saturday, Jan 16
Cloudy
High -- 56 Low -- 40

Sunday, Jan 17
Partly Cloudy
High -- 58 Low -- 37

Monday, Jan 18
Partly Cloudy
High -- 59 Low -- 39

Tuesday, Jan 19
Partly Cloudy
High -- 58 Low -- 37

Wednesday, Jan 20
Partly Cloudy
High -- 49 Low -- 33

Following are the high & low temperatures, and rainfall recorded at The End of the Road in O'Brien by Cheryl Johnson:

Jan	High	Low	Rain
1	52.3	39.1	0.83
2	49.7	39.2	0.56
3	51.8	44.1	0.61
4	49.6	37.7	1.43
5	45.8	30.9	0.02
6	47.4	34.6	0.94
7	39.3	31.5	0.20
8	46.8	37.1	0.84

Dec. Rain: 9.11" YTD Rain: 23.63"



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Crawlies with Cri: by Christy Solo

This week’s crawly is more of a hopper. Meet the Pacific treefrog (*Pseudacris regilla*). Another common name of the Pacific is the “chorus frog” for their distinctive call. Often as not the frogs you hear in Hollywood movies are Pacifics.

Pacific treefrogs are small, well-camouflaged frogs. Adults range from three-quarters of an inch to 2 inches in length. They can be bright green, tan, gray or a combination of those colors. They may show a spotted pattern or be a solid color.

By the way, each individual Pacific treefrog can be any one of those combinations at any time. They are truly “Masters of Camo” and are able to quickly change their coloration to match their surroundings.

A 2004 study of Pacific treefrogs done in Washington state, concluded that “H. regilla has control over and can change its hue, chroma and lightness during time periods on the order of minutes.” ... we support the idea that physiological color change has evolved as a mechanism to allow rapid background matching as a tree frog moves from one location to another.”

(James C. Stegen et al. “The control of color change in the Pacific tree frog,” *Hyla regilla*. *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, 2004, Vol. 82, No. 6)

Pacific treefrogs can be found in a wide variety of habitats; often far from water outside of the breeding season. Habitats include; forest, woodland, chaparral, grassland, pastures, desert streams and oases,



(Photo by Christy Solo, Illinois Valley News)

Pacific treefrog (*Pseudacris regilla*)

underground caves and urban areas.

They hibernate underground during winter months.

True to their name, they are found mostly in the Pacific region of North America. They can be found from British Columbia, Canada to the tip of Baja California, México and eastward to Montana and Nevada.

In opposition to their “treefrog” moniker, they are usually found on, or close to the ground. They do climb very well, however. Their rounded toes are equipped with sticky pads allowing them to deftly climb on

slick plant and man-made surfaces.

To escape danger, they prefer to dive under water and hide among grasses or debris. Failing that option, they will hide and remain motionless hoping a would-be predator will pass them by.

While Pacific treefrogs prey on a wide range of invertebrates, especially flying insects, they are preyed upon by diving beetles, giant water bugs, bluegill sunfish and garter snakes to name a few.

They do need water for egg laying. In spring, you may hear large groups “singing” away in small

ponds, creeks and rivers. Females will attach a gel egg sac to a stick or other underwater vegetation in quiet, shallow water.

Eggs hatch in two to three weeks and tadpoles take about two and a half months to grow into adults.

While it is not known how long Pacific treefrogs live in the wild, it is known that they are a froggy success story. While most other Oregon species of frogs are facing severely declining numbers, Pacifics keep adapting to change and their numbers are staying strong.

Keep an ear and eye out for these pretty Pacifics from late spring into early fall.

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