

# Southern Gray Treefrog

## Southern (Cope's) Gray Treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*)

### Southern Gray Treefrog is a State Endangered Species - Pl.32

**Identification:** 1 1/4" - 2 3/8". These two species appear identical with the exception of their calls, and the calls themselves are very difficult to tell apart. Ground color in the adult is gray; however, green or brown frogs may be seen, and individual frogs may show variations in color depending on conditions. There is usually a light spot under the eye. The inner surface of the hind legs is yellow or orange, sometimes with black marks. The skin is warty. Toe pads are large and rounded. Juvenile frogs are often bright green. Tadpoles are easily recognizable, with reddish tails and olive bodies.

**Where to find them:** Both species of Gray Treefrogs spend most of their time high in the trees, except during breeding season when they are at the water's edge. Bare horizontal branches over water are the preferred calling sites during breeding season. They breed in vernal ponds or swamps, and remain in mixed forested uplands during the rest of the year. Like many treefrogs, these species frequently call on warm rainy days outside of breeding season.

**When to find them:** Breed from May through July. High humidity and temperatures above 17° C initiate breeding activity.

**Voice:** The Northern Gray Treefrog has a slow trill while that of the Southern Gray Treefrog is quicker, shorter, and higher-pitched. The speed of the trills in both species is slowed when the weather is cool. Because it is hard to distinguish between the two where their ranges overlap, a tape recording of the call along with the temperature and humidity will aid in identification.

**Range:** Cape May and southern Cumberland, Ocean, and Atlantic Counties in the Southern Region.

**Conservation Status:** The Southern Gray Treefrog was listed as an endangered species in New Jersey in 1979 due to the combined effects of its limited distribution and the loss of its required habitat in the state.

## Southern Gray Treefrog

(*Hyla chrysoscelis*) - text pg. 40



### Key Features

- Identical in appearance to the northern gray treefrog. Species are discernable only by their calls. See text page 40.



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife ~ 2002



Excerpt from: "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey"  
Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>