

Resources for Herptile Identification, Natural History, and Management

Amphibians

Bishop, S.C. 1941 (June). *The salamanders of New York*. New York State Museum bulletin No. 324. The University of the State of New York, Albany, New York 365 pp. (This book is currently out of print, but contains excellent information on Vermont's salamanders.)

Bishop, S.C. 1994. *Handbook of salamanders: The salamanders of the United States, of Canada, and of lower California*. Comstock Publishing Associates, A Division of Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York 555 pp. (A reprint of an old classic. It does not contain as much information on each species as *The Salamanders of New York*.)

Dickerson, M.C. 1969. *The Frog Book: North American toads and frogs, with a study of the habits and life histories of those of the northeastern states*. Dover Publications, Inc., New York 253 pp. (A reprint of an old classic. Still excellent information but some of it is outdated. No newer comprehensive works on frogs are available.)

Epple, A.O. 1983. *The Amphibians of New England*. Down East Books, Camden, Maine 138 pp. (A good book for the beginner but without plates or photos.)

Petranka, J.W. 1998. *Salamanders of the United States and Canada*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC 587 pp. (The most current source for detailed information on salamanders.)

Pfingsten, R.A. and F.L. Downs. 1989. *Salamanders of Ohio*. Bulletin of the Ohio Biological Survey Vol. 7, No. 2. College of Biological Sciences, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 315 pp, 29 plates. (This contains detailed information on the many species of salamander that we share with Ohio.)

Wright, A.H. and A.A. Wright. 1995. *Handbook of frogs and toads of the United States and Canada*. Comstock Publishing Associates, A Division of Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York 640 pp. (A reprint of an old classic. No newer comprehensive works on frogs are available.)

Calls

A very useful tape to help you learn the calls of frogs and toads is:

Eliot, L. 1992. *The calls of frogs and toads; eastern and central North America*. Nature Sound Studio. Ithaca New York. (call 1-800-336-6398 to order)

Identification

A few good field guides to reptiles and amphibians exist. These help you identify herptiles but do not give you life history information. One that is easy to find, and up to date is:

Conant, R., and J.T. Collins. 1998. *A field guide to reptiles and amphibians of eastern and central North America*. Third Edition, expanded, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston Massachusetts 616 pp.

Management Information

Management guides are just beginning to be available. All of these include reptile and amphibian related information.

Biebighauser, T. 2002. *A Guide to Creating Vernal Ponds*. USDA Forest Service in cooperation with the Izaak Walton League of America. Morehead, Kentucky. 33 pp. (Call 606-784-6428 to order or find it on the web.)

Calhoun, A.J.K. and M. W. Klemens. 2002. *Best Development Practices: Conserving Pool-breeding Amphibians in Residential and Commercial Developments in the Northeastern United States*. MCA Technical Paper No. 5, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, New York. 57 pp. (Call 924-925-9175 to order.)

Evink, G. 2002. National Cooperative Highway Research Program Synthesis 305, *Interaction between Roadways and Wildlife Ecology, A Synthesis of Highway Practice*. Transportation Research Board, Washington D.C. 78 pp. (Impacts of roads on herptiles and some conservation strategies. A big problem, good information. Order at 202-334-3213 or on the web.)

Flatebo, G., C. Foss, and S. Pelletier. 1999. *Biodiversity in the Forests of Maine: Guidelines for Land Management*. University of Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin #7147. C. Elliot editor, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Orono, Maine. 168 pp. (Contact UME Extension Office at 207-581-3188.)

Kingsbury, B. and J. Gibson. 2002. *Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles of the Midwest*. Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (Midwest PARC). 57 pp. (Visit the PARC website for more information: www.parcplace.org.)

Natural History

These guides focus less on identification and more on natural history, local distribution, and conservation.

DeGraaf, R.M., and D.D. Rudis. 1983. *Amphibians and Reptiles of New England*. The University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, Massachusetts 85 pp.

Harding, J.H. 1997. *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Great Lakes Region*. The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan 378 pp. (All our species are included.)

- Hulse, A., C. J. McCoy, and E. Censky. 2001. *Amphibian and Reptiles of Pennsylvania and the Northeast*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York 419 pp. (Most of our species are included.)
- Hunter, M.L., A. Calhoun, and M. McCullough (eds.). 1999. *Maine Amphibians and Reptiles*. The University of Maine Press, Orono, Maine 272 pp. (This edition includes a CD of local frog calls. Call 207-581-1408 to order.)
- Klemens, M.K. 1993. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Connecticut and Adjacent Regions*. State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut, Bulletin No. 112 318 pp. (Unfortunately this is currently out of print.)
- Tynning, T.F. 1990. *A Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles*. Little, Brown and Company. Boston Massachusetts 400 pp.

Reptiles

- Carr, A. 1995. *Handbook of turtles: The turtles of the United States, Canada, and Baja California*. Comstock Publishing Associates, A Division of Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York 542 pp. (A reprint of an old classic.)
- Ernst, C.H. and R.W. Barbour. 1989. *Snakes of eastern North America*. George Mason University Press, Fairfax, Virginia. 282 pp. (An excellent source for detailed information.)
- Ernst, C. H., and E. Ernst. 2003. *Snakes of the United States and Canada*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C. 668 pp. (The latest and most complete source for snakes.)
- Ernst, C.H., J.E. Lovich, and R.W. Barbour. 1994. *Turtles of the United States and Canada*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D. C. 578 pp. (The best current source for detailed information.)
- Klauber, L.M. 1982. *Rattlesnakes: their habits, life histories, & influence on mankind*, abridged edition. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, California 350 pp. (An edited reprint of an old classic.)
- Klemens, M. (ed.) 2000. *Turtle Conservation*. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington 334 pp. (A current discussion of conservation challenges.)
- Mitchell, J.C. 1994. *The reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington 352 pp. (This book provides excellent information on the species of reptile that we share with Virginia; most of our species are found in this book.)
- Smith, H.M. 1995. *Handbook of Lizards: Lizards of the United States and Canada*. Comstock Publishing Associates, A Division of Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York 557 pp. (A reprint of an old classic.)
- Tennant, A. 2003. *Snakes of North America: Eastern and Central Regions*. Lone Star Books, Lanham, Maryland. 605 pp. (One of two excellent new snake resources.)

Wright, A.H. and A.A. Wright. 1994. *Handbook of Snakes of the United States and Canada, volumes 1 and 2*. Comstock Publishing Associates, A Division of Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York 1105 pp. (A reprint of an old classic.)

Texts

Duellman, W.E. and L. Trueb. 1994. *Biology of Amphibians*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland 670 pp. (The standard text for amphibians.)

Heyer, W.R., M.A. Donnelly, R.W. McDiarmid, L-A. C. Hayek, and M.S. Foster. 1994. *Measuring and Monitoring Biological Diversity: Standard Methods for Amphibians*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington 364 pp. (Useful information for researchers.)

Mitchell, J.C. 2000. *Amphibian Monitoring Methods and Field Guide*. Smithsonian National Zoological Park's Conservation & Research Center, Front Royal, Virginia 56 pp. (Very accessible, designed for citizen scientists.)

Stebbins, R.C. and N.W. Cohen. 1995. *A Natural History of Amphibians*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey 316 pp. (Lots of interesting information in an accessible and easy to read format.)

West, L. and W.P. Leonard. 1997. *How to Photograph Reptiles & Amphibians*. Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 118 pp.

Zug, G.R. 1993. *Herpetology: An Introductory Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles*. Academic Press, A Division of Harcourt Brace & Company, San Diego, California 527 pp. (A standard text.)

Websites

Many useful sites exist. Some provide more reliable information than others. A few reliable sites, some with many links to other resources are:

Amphibiaweb (an excellent source of information on amphibians)
<http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/aw/>

North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP)
<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/naamp>

North American Reporting Center for Amphibian Malformations (NARCAM)
<http://www.npsc.nbs.gov/narcam/>

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR)
<http://www.ukans.edu/~ssar>

The Snakes of Massachusetts (includes all our local snakes)
http://www.umass.edu/umext/nrec/snake_pit/index.html