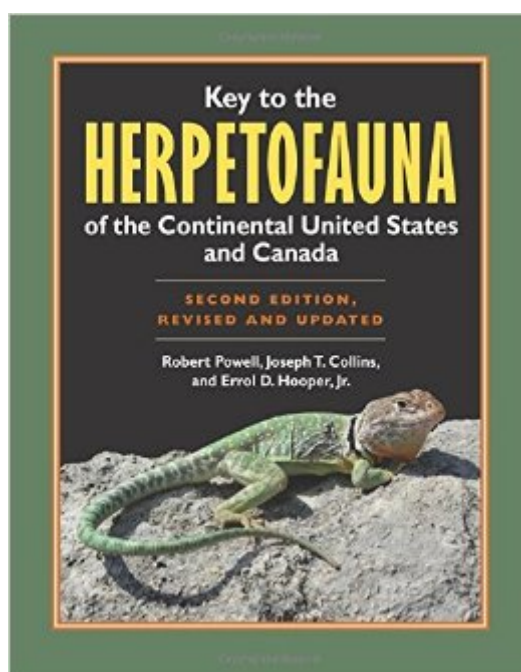


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Key To The Herpetofauna Of The Continental United States And Canada: Second Edition, Revised And Updated



Synopsis

This profusely illustrated comprehensive key for identifying herpetofaunal specimens from the continental United States and Canada incorporates a wealth of scientific findings. Since the first edition was published in 1998, the number of currently recognized species of native salamanders, frogs, turtles, lizards, amphisbaenians (wormlike lizards), snakes, and crocodylians in this area has increased from 545 to 634, and the number of established non-native species has increased from 39 to 58. The increase in native taxa reflects the dynamic nature of modern systematics and the use of new (especially molecular) techniques to elucidate relationships and redefine species boundaries. The increase in non-native exotic species reflects the porosity of the North American borders when it comes to controlling animal imports. The key is easy to use and illustrated with outstanding line drawings that show details of color patterns and structures used for identification. To accommodate the additional taxa, the number of line drawings in this new edition has increased from 257 to 279. In addition, 25 maps illustrating the distributions of some problematic species groups have been added. The literature cited has been expanded considerably, including a large number of annotations detailing current taxonomic ambiguities or disagreements. Collectively these features, together with numerous references to the Peterson Field Guides and accounts in the Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles, dramatically enhance opportunities to teach and learn the classification and identification of the herpetofauna. Publication sponsored by The Center for North American Herpetology and Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University

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Customer Reviews

I am happy with the book, but I wish at least a few reviews had mentioned the fact the book requires other books in order to be used. It CANNOT be used by itself- it needs at least two other books so readers can see the species they intend to identify.

Very thorough key with great illustrations and clear hierarchies. A total must for identifying herps! My only complaint is that some of the defining characters of species are pretty nitpicky while much more noticeable characters are overlooked in the description. It's not a common problem, and I know a lot of that is related to the taxonomic definitions of the species as set down by other scientists, but it's still annoying when it happens.

This key is long overdue but does an excellent job on any reptile or amphibian one is likely to encounter in North America. Also, the current scientific names and other taxonomic categories are up-to-date.

...for any serious herpetologist or herpetological enthusiast who needs a functional key to species. The line drawings are very helpful and augment the key well. This is an absolute must for the amateur who should learn how to use dichotomous keys if they want to truly learn the herpetofauna of their area.

I am taking a college level herpetology course, and this key is helpful and beautifully done. I highly recommend it to anyone with an interest in reptiles and amphibians.

This key is an invaluable tool for understanding and identifying the reptiles and amphibians in the continental U.S. and Canada. The diagnostic detail in the line drawings is unsurpassed and the distribution maps greatly aid the descriptions.

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