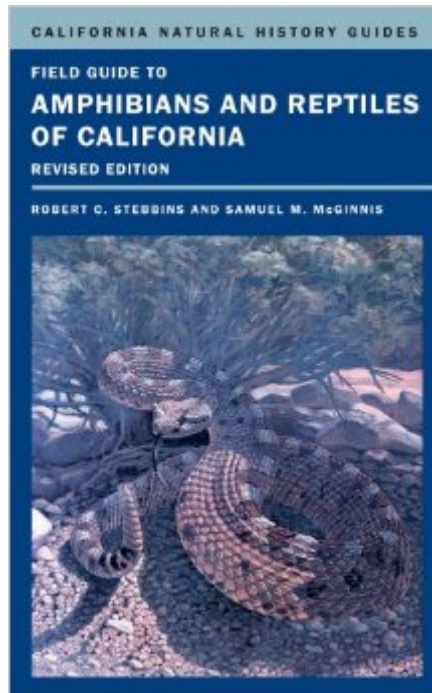


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# Field Guide To Amphibians And Reptiles Of California (California Natural History Guides)



## Synopsis

This user-friendly guide is the only complete resource that identifies and describes all the amphibians and reptiles—salamanders, frogs and toads, lizards, snakes, and tortoises and turtles—that live in California. The species are described in richly detailed accounts that include range maps, lifelike color paintings by Robert C. Stebbins, clear drawings of various life stages including eggs, notes on natural history, and conservation status. Easy-to-use keys for every order help identify species, and informative chapters cover more general topics including evolution, habitat loss, and photography. Throughout, anecdotes and observations reveal new insights into the lives of California's abundant but often hidden amphibians and reptiles.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

First things first, let me just say that I have not seen any previous editions of this book. However, I have owned *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians* (Peterson Field Guides) for years, so I will compare this book to that one (and I will call it the "Western guide" and this book the "California guide"). Having disclosed that... This is a great book for amateur herpetologists and even a good update for more experienced herpetologists in California. The material overlaps pretty extensively with the Western guide, with some key differences. Whereas the Western guide is pretty brief in natural history in its species accounts, this California guide can be quite extensive. This doesn't apply to all species, but some, like the California red-legged frog, now have species

accounts spanning several pages. Conservation notes have also been updated pretty nicely to be much more specific and detailed about the conservation status of each species, and taxonomy has been updated for most species to be current (the arroyo toad, for example, which was adopted into *Anaxyrus* last year by USFWS, is still listed as being in the *Bufo* genus). While the plates look to be pretty much the same as the Western guide, some species now have additional photos that are not in the Western guide, and some photos have not carried over. Range descriptions are more detailed than they were before, and maps due to the smaller area are now a little easier to try to gain reference from when seeing if a species should be in a certain area.

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