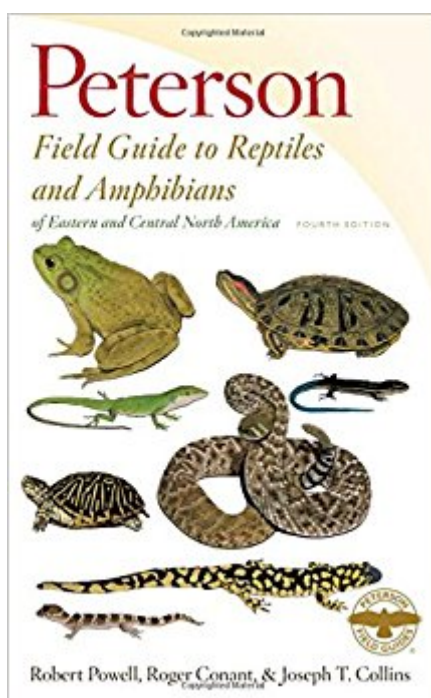


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Peterson Field Guide To Reptiles And Amphibians Of Eastern And Central North America, Fourth Edition (Peterson Field Guides)



Synopsis

A completely updated edition, including 122 newly recognized or recently established non-native species of reptiles and amphibians. The new edition of this definitive guide reflects 25 years' worth of changes in our knowledge of reptiles and amphibians. It includes descriptions of 122 newly recognized or recently established non-native species, updated maps, and new figures and photos. Color illustrations and drawings show key details for accurate identification. More than 100 color photographs and 322 color distribution maps accompany the species descriptions. Clear and concise species accounts provide key characteristics, similar species, habitats, and ranges, as well as subspecies, voice descriptions, and conservation status. This edition will be a crucial resource for professional and amateur herpetologists, naturalists, outdoor enthusiasts, and students.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Peterson The best-selling field guides of all time This new edition reflects 25 years of changes in our knowledge of the reptiles and amphibians of eastern and central North America. It includes descriptions of 122 newly recognized or recently established non-native species, updated maps, and new figures and photos. Color illustrations and drawings show key details for accurate identification. More than 100 color photographs and 322 color distribution maps accompany the species descriptions. Clear and concise species accounts provide key characteristics, comparisons with similar species, and descriptions of habitats and ranges. Some also list subspecies, describe

voices, and note conservation status. This edition is a crucial resource for professional and amateur herpetologists, naturalists, outdoor enthusiasts, and students. Sponsored by the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute DR. ROBERT POWELL is professor of biology at Avila University in Kansas City, Missouri. The late ROGER CONANT was director and curator of reptiles at the Philadelphia Zoo. The late JOSEPH T. COLLINS was founder and director of the Center for North American Herpetology."

ROBERT POWELL is professor of biology at Avila University in Kansas City, Missouri, and a research associate at the University of Kansas Natural History Museum in Lawrence. He has written hundreds of scientific articles and notes (many with student coauthors) and is coauthor or coeditor of seven books, including *A Key to the Herpetofauna of the Continental United States and Canada* (1998, 2nd edition 2012; with Joseph T. Collins and Errol D. Hooper). ROGER CONANT was an American herpetologist, author, and conservationist. The late JOSEPH T. COLLINS was the herpetologist with the Kansas Biological Survey and emeritus at the University of Kansas Natural History Museum, where he worked for thirty years. He was founder and director of the Center for North American Herpetology and author of many articles and books, most recently *Amphibians, Reptiles, and Turtles in Kansas* (2010; with Suzanne L. Collins and Travis W. Taggart).

This guide has been one of my favorite herp books for many decades. The previous edition, first published in 1991, included a few recently discovered native species (for example, the Pigeon Mountain salamander) and various established exotics (mainly lizards) not yet known when the 1975 edition was published, and also introduced clearer, more colorful and detailed range maps included with each species account rather than placing them in a section at the back. This latest edition includes all that but also incorporates many recent taxonomic changes, even more detailed range maps, and adds many more newly discovered native species (one notable case is the patch-nosed salamander, a small species found in a tiny part of northeastern Georgia that somehow evaded discovery until 2009, and many newly differentiated cryptic look-alike species) as well as many more established non-native species that have been recently recorded, in large part from Florida. I was very excited to see this long awaited 4th edition and the impressive wealth of new information it contains, and so considering this as well as the way I feel about this book in general, I am giving it 4 stars, though I had really hoped to make it 5. One major disappointment for me is that, apparently to reduce the number of pages, many of the old species accounts have been condensed, and some material from the previous edition, like the chapters on field herping, care in

captivity, etc., has been omitted. Also, the classic illustrations on the color plates have been reduced in scale for some reason, apparently in order to accommodate the new color tabs along the margins without increasing the number of plates. I am rather puzzled by some of the tinkering that has taken place in this regard, and think some errors were made. For example, on Plate 6, the Yonahlossee salamander, which is the largest of the woodland salamander group, now looks only about the same size as its cousins like the slimy and red-cheeked. (By the way, it should be mentioned that no new illustrations were added to the existing plates, although many of the old illustrations were shuffled around. The newly discovered species are represented under their accounts in photographs.) I personally would have preferred for these omissions not to have been made, even if the book would have been 100 pages longer (as was the 3rd edition). But I still feel that this new edition is a must-have for the library of any herp enthusiast, and heartily recommend it if you want the latest cutting edge information about our herpetofauna, although if you are like me, you will still want to keep the previous edition handy as well.

Excellent and a must for any herper interested in reptiles or amphibians of eastern North America. I can't love it yet because so much of the taxonomy is waiting for the DNA work-ups so taxonomists can define relationships better. The last change from *Elaphe* to *Patherophys* shook me up good. On the positive side this printing touches on the invasive species but there are many more of them than shown. Soon they will probably be enough to justify a Peterson Guide of their own. I would recommend it highly if you don't have an older copy. But if you have a recent printing skip this one and wait until they have the taxonomy straighten out.

This was my Bible growing up. I have the first and second editions (the latter with a personal signature by Roger Conant). Interesting to see the updated taxonomy and range maps. Essential for the young herpetologist in your life.

Just returned from an extensive Herp trip to the Southeast and all 43 species of salamander that we found were covered in the guide. I had the only copy as we started the trip but a couple more were purchased on the road and delivered to our hotel. Very impressed but what they kept from the old version and the new information and plates added.

The perfect book for learning more about North American snakes. The "Peterson" brand is one of the best names in "Field Guides" on the market today. My order arrived earlier than expected. I am

very satisfied with the seller.

Your Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern/ Central North America shows the black tail rattlesnake to be in Texas. I have seen two in Alabama just north west of Montgomery.

This book arrived in perfect condition. I am very pleased with this field guide. I do wildlife photography and this will help me immensely with the description and habits of the little critters I'm taking pics of.

great information

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