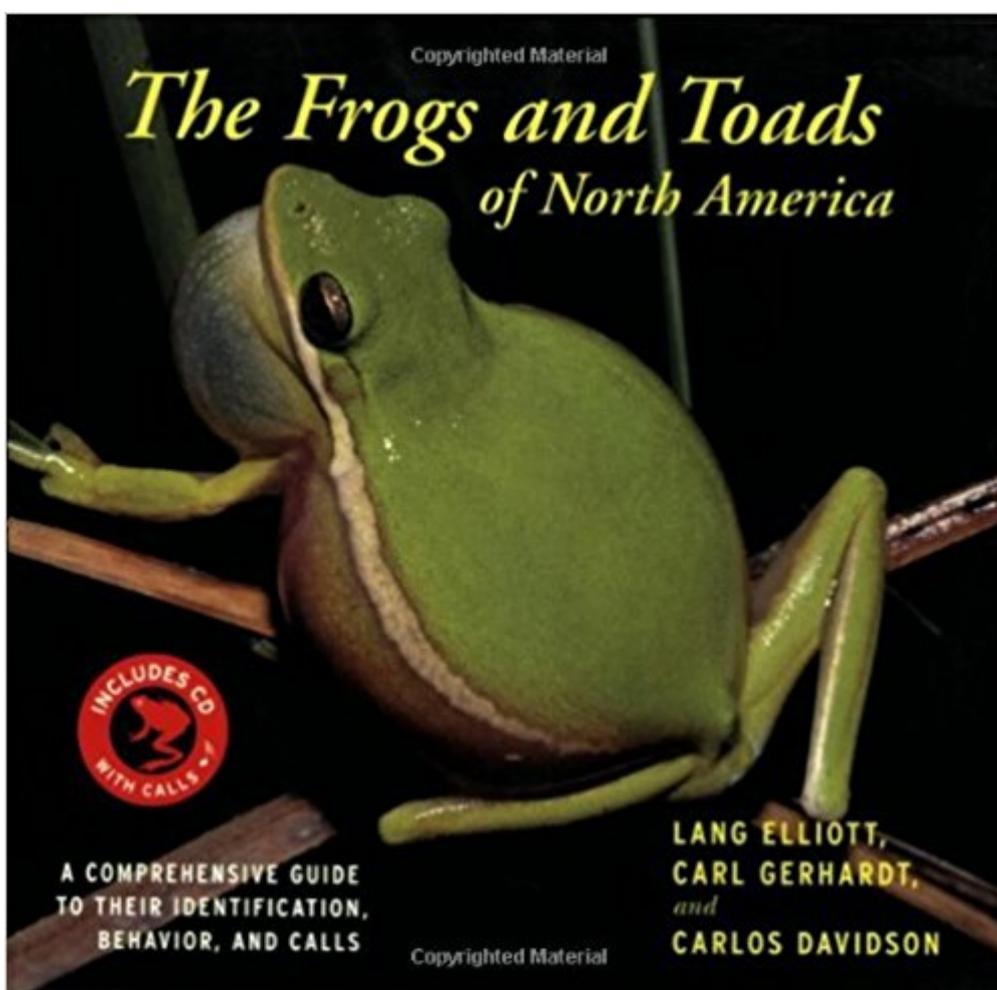


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# The Frogs And Toads Of North America: A Comprehensive Guide To Their Identification, Behavior, And Calls



## Synopsis

The Frogs and Toads of North America

## Book Information

Paperback: 344 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (March 17, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618663991

ISBN-13: 978-0618663996

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.9 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 63 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #65,795 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Reptiles & Amphibians #311 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Fauna #1824 in Books > Sports & Outdoors

## Customer Reviews

**Product Description** A beautiful and comprehensive photo-filled guide that is the first to show all of the frogs of North America and includes a CD of their calls. Colorful and noisy early indicators of environmental distress, frogs and toads are fascinating to casual nature lovers as well as expert herpetologists. Covering all 101 species in the United States and Canada, this book contains natural history information, identification tips, range and habitat information, summaries of behavior, and descriptions of calls. A 70-minute audio compact disc includes the calls of nearly every species and makes fascinating listening for any nature lover. The book also has sections on conservation issues, public participation in census programs, photography and sound recording, and keeping frogs and toads as pets. From the olive-and-black Pig Frog, which gets its name from its low-pitched, piglike grunt, to the X-marked and familiar-sounding Spring Peeper, the superb photographs and high-quality field recordings combine with the informative text to make this a must-have book for every naturalist. A Look (and Listen) Inside The Frogs and Toads of North America Click on an image below to sample one of the many different frog and toad calls from the accompanying CD.

Pines Barrens Tree Frogs Woodhouses Toad Wood Frogs

The title says it all for this beautiful field guide to all 101 species of frogs and toads found in the U.S. and Canada. Elliott has produced a masterpiece of photographs and particulars of all our native and

introduced toads and frogs. Each species is covered in a minimum two-page spread, with common and Latin names, a range map, and a short discussion of appearance, range and habitat, behavior, and voice. All species accounts are illustrated with exquisite close-up photos, many of which show calling males, while others illustrate the various color morphs some species exhibit. The major strength of this book, and one that almost demands its purchase, is the accompanying CD featuring recordings of the calls of every species (with the exception of the two that never vocalize). A lengthy descriptive list of the calls appends the text. The combination of spectacular photography, conversational text, and clear sound recordings make this one an absolute winner. --Nancy Bent

Just to make one thing clear before I proceed: this book is almost entirely about adult anurans. The only times tadpoles are mentioned are in quick references such as the difference in diet as anurans go from their watery tadpole phase to their (relatively) more terrestrial juvenile and adult phases or when discussing keeping anurans of all life stages as pets. If you are looking for information about tadpoles, this is not the book for you. However, if you are primarily interested in identifying the calls you hear as you are out in the wild, the animal you just saw hop (or even walk) across your field of vision, or want to know more about finding North American anurans, this IS the book for you. Collaboratively written by Lang Elliott, Carl Gerhardt, and Carlos Davidson, *The Frogs and Toads of North America* can be viewed as four distinct parts: general information about anurans as a whole, individual species accounts, photographs for identification, and audio recordings of calls. The introduction to this book covers the natural history of anurans as a whole. It discusses subjects such as desiccation, diet, predation, reproduction, and calling. The intro altogether is only around 20 pages or so, but is actually pretty informative. I learned quite a bit that I didn't know, such as how studies suggest that females may in some cases choose males based on similarities in their temperatures as evidenced by how the temporal aspects of the male's call (pulse rates) change depending on ambient temperature. Fascinating! The intro is in effect like a light textbook: informative while still being highly engaging and to the point. The intro also discusses evolution and speciation, giving a good overview (with examples) of how different anurans may resemble each other and not be able to produce viable offspring, or vice versa. It wraps up with discussing the main known causes of amphibian declines worldwide and summarizes what you can do to help minimize harm to these wonderful animals, even recommending some volunteer programs. The end of the book discusses the merits of and tips for catching and keeping anurans as pets. Species accounts are grouped into the nine families of the Order Anura. Within these families accounts are ordered according to similarities between species, followed by degree of abundance, and finally from east to

west. It is more or less easy to follow, but contains a list at the beginning of all species in order for reference both in the book and by the audio tracks (anurans are all numbered, 1 - 99b, which correspond to the audio tracks). The individual accounts have the common name and scientific name of each species, along with any proposed name changes (for example, "Arroyo Toad: *Bufo californicus* (*Anaxyrus californicus*)

This is the best "Frog and Toad" song and ID book for me! I love Lang Elliott's work - his excellent recordings which are included in a CD with book are fantastic (I loaded them into my phone for use in the field). And as a bonus the photos in this book are absolutely great. It's pretty enough for your coffee table if you are a nature geek and your friends won't laugh at you too hard. Because it covers the whole country, if you don't do a lot of naturalist-oriented travel you could disregard over half the book. But I don't mind. The range maps are good and clear so it's easy to figure out whether a frog is a reasonable possibility in your area or not. If you live in the southwest/Texas area (I don't) you will be amazed at the number of frogs and toads there! If I were homeschooling kids (and subjecting them to my nature geek tendency) this would be a book I would keep around and refer to. I would have loved this book as a kid. I loaded the whole CD onto my phone, but created a playlist with just the frogs in my area so as to avoid confusion in the field. Lang Elliott's other books - especially the Insects one - are equally fabulous. He has taken the nature reference to a whole new level.

I must own every field guide ever written, and they're fine so far as they go. This book, though, is a step above. It's gift-giving quality, if you know somebody who loves the outdoors. The layout is wonderful: photo and information all in one spot. And the photos! They're beautiful. (Also large enough to see without the reading glasses....) A relative goldmine of information about each species, plus some trans-species information about ecology, habitats, and how to go "frogging" responsibly. The CD is icing on the cake--you can "frog by ear" just as you can "bird by ear." Really an excellent addition to my bookshelf and to the bookshelf of anybody who is interested in frogs.

12 stars. Froggy

I would expect to pay more than the price of this book for the cd alone. The book itself is fantastic. It includes at least one photo of every species north of Mexico and multiple photos for the vast majority of species, including full page photos for a lot of species. I'm sure the text in *Frogs and Toads of the United States and Canada* is more in depth, but I'm also certain that the photos in that

book won't come close to the photos in this one (based on the Turtles, Salamanders, and Snakes of the United States and Canada books that I own). At the very least, this is a great temporary substitute until the price on Frogs and Toads of the United States and Canada comes down. And if you already own that book, then your interest in Frogs and Toads is great enough that there's no way you can justify passing on this book and cd for such a low price.

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