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Amphibians and Reptiles of Florida [book review]

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Amphibians and Reptiles of Florida is the first significant resource on herpetofauna in Florida. Previous works have been field guides, or comprehensive works on turtles and non-native species. An introduction discusses the history of Florida herpetology, environmental characteristics of the state, sources of locality records, status of species, and more. Species accounts are provided for each of the 155 native and 64 established nonnative amphibians and reptiles in Florida, mostly written by authorities rather than the authors. Accounts are based on personal observations in the field and scientific literature, and grouped by order, suborder, and family. Each species description includes identification features, taxonomy, geographic distribution and habitat, reproduction and development, diet, behavior, conservation, and colored range maps. Range maps have circles indicating cataloged vouchered records of a species (e.g. collected specimens and photographs), triangles representing credible unvouchered records, and squares when only the county is known. Symbol colors represent records prior to or after a specific date. One or more colored images is included for each species, representing sex and adult/juvenile stages if dissimilar. Occasionally images of larval amphibians are included if distinct. Additional features include a twelve page glossary and approximately ninety pages of references.

Make no mistake, this is a guide for serious amateur or professional herpetologists. People interested in identifying amphibians or reptiles, and learning brief natural history information will find *A Field Guide to Snakes of Florida* (A. Tennant, Gulf Publishing, 1997) and *A Field Guide to Florida Reptiles and Amphibians* (R.D. Bartlett, P.P. Bartlett, Gulf Publishing, 1998) more accessible. However, this source will be standard in all academic libraries and most public libraries. Highly recommended.