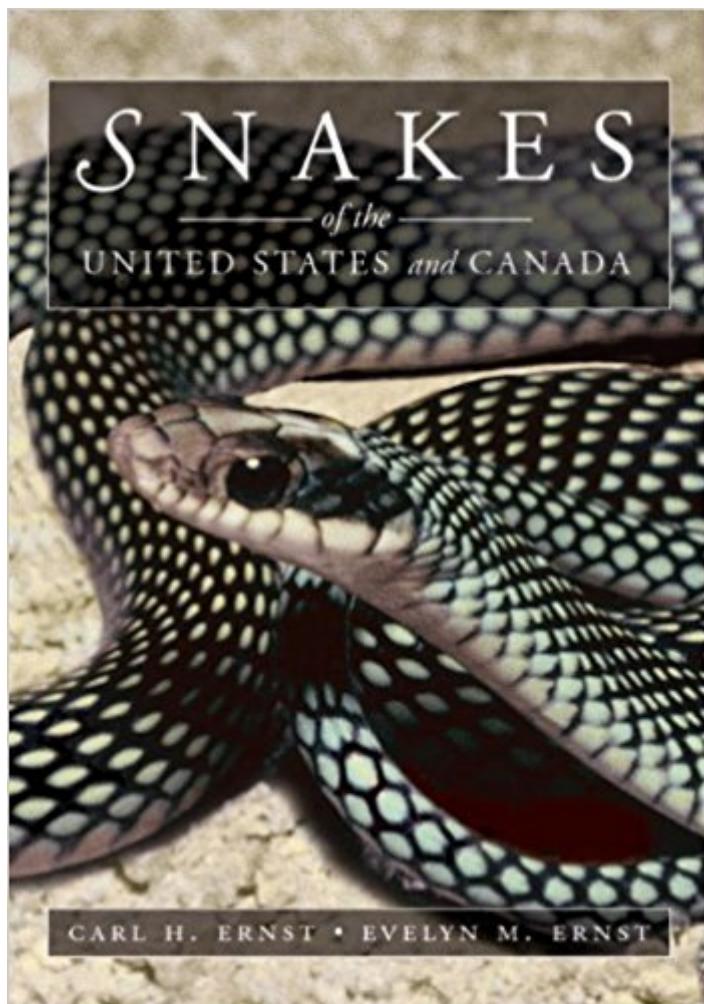


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Snakes Of The United States And Canada



Synopsis

World-renowned snake expert Carl Ernst and coauthor Evelyn Ernst reveal the unusual lifestyles of these fascinating creatures, describing every known aspect of each of the 131 species found in the United States and Canada. From the venomous rattlers to the docile garter snakes, each species is shown to display a unique set of behaviors and adaptations to its environment. Much more than simply a field guide, this monumental reference begins with an introduction to snake biology and evolution, which is followed by an identification guide and key to the North American species. The heart of the book is the species accounts which, accompanied by color photographs, provide detailed information on identifying features, geographic variation, known fossils, current distribution, habitat type, behavior, reproduction, growth, diet, and predators. Completing the book is a glossary of terms and a comprehensive reference section. No other book provides as thorough or as reliable coverage.

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Customer Reviews

Carl H. Ernst is a Distinguished Professor of Biology at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He has written six books, including the award-winning *Turtles of the World* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1989) and is coauthor of *Snakes in Question* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1996). Evelyn M. Ernst is director of information for the National Science Resource Center in Washington, D.C.

I got this book because my grandfather lives on 2 1/2 acres back in the mountains, and I always find

little snakes to catch. Now of course a Peterson's Field Guide would serve me a better purpose on IDing them in the field, but I wanted something that had ALOT of information on snakes, and well, I found it. I'm a junior in highschool right now and when I first got this, I could have sworn it was a textbook just on snakes. It comes with a dust jacket, and has a really heavy duty hard cover. When I opened it up, WOW. I have the training/experience level of, 0 out of 10, so I was quickly overwhelmed when I first opened it up to the Common Garter Snake (Eastern and subspecies) and looked for its average length, and first seen the term TBL (Total Body Length) I quickly realized that this isn't a recreational book, this is hardcore. In my opinion, this book is awesome, if you're into snakes. If you're just wanting a book to ID snakes that you see around your property, on the trails around the campsite, A Field Guide to Reptiles & Amphibians of Eastern & Central North America (Peterson Field Guide Series) is a better way to go, and won't kill your wallet. If you're planning on going into the biology field, such as herpetology, or Zoology (Like me!) this text is AWESOME! Even if you're a die hard snake fan, this book is great. It's just that, this book, is DETAILED. When it says it has where they live, what eats them, what they eat, up top in the description, no no no, it has this, but in great detail! Anywhere from 3-8 color photos per species of snake, showing various color phases/morphs. It has their denning sites, when they are most active, what they tend to do when threatened or handled, AND THE ONE FEATURE I LOVE THE MOST Average Body Lengths depending on AGE! So let's say a Garter Snake was 1 year old and you just caught him, and he measured 58cm, The book has a part in each extensive writeup that says Male 1 Year Old: 30cm-68cm (IM JUST GUESSING RANDOM NUMBERS this isn't what the book has) Female 1 Year Old: 35-72cm THIS I LOVE!!! Now I can guess a rough age on the snake I catch! Another thing the book has per species is sexual dimorphism, (I think I spelled that right) which in common talk, how to tell a boy from a girl and vice versa, WITHOUT dangerous probing. Probing is usually the way to sex a snake, but it's very dangerous if done by anyone other than a vet or a trained wildlife expert, us rookies we would risk harming the snake very badly if we did it. The book tells you the differences so you can make a good estimated guess without harming the snake. Like I said before this book is an awesome tool if you're looking to study snakes and get extensive knowledge on them, if you're looking for a field guide to carry with you in the woods, the one above is best, and that has more than snakes in it. So in a nutshell Buy this book if: You want to learn a lot, and I mean ALOT about snakes. If you're going to be studying snakes. If you want to learn more about a certain species. If you deal with snakes on a daily basis. If you want to learn technical facts about snakes. Don't buy this book if: You're looking for a field guide. You're afraid of snakes. Enjoy!

Book as described, fast shipping.

Excellent resource book for serious amateurs or professionals who deal with many snakes. Great overviews of literature and general info for each species. My one quibble are about the invasive species. It does not have sections on Burmese Pythons or the 2 anaconda species at all, but goes into detail about Boa constrictors. The native species accounts more than make up for it, but it is an oversight in my opinion.

This book includes distribution maps and a list of commonly-confused look-alikes, which is very helpful. It is an important reference book- probably too big to be carried into the field.

This is an excellent book for learning all there is currently known about snakes of the United States and Canada.

IF you want an in-depth look into the snakes of the U. S., this is it. The comprehensive keys, excellent photographs, and detailed information makes this the best snake book I own. I am a master's student and the information in this book as well as the comprehensive literature cited will help me in my studies.

This book is a tremendous resource but is not a field guide, this is a very large book. Each species is given a generous writeup with fascinating information that is little known for each. I would recommend this to professionals and hobbyists alike. I've passed this around to people in my Herp Club and they are all very impressed. Buy this if you're at all interested in the Snakes of U.S and Canada.

Since we moved to SC we did not know very much about snakes. Where we come from we only seen gardener snakes. This book has been a big help to us. I would recommend it to anyone.

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