narrow possibilities in a particular area” and link sea
mammals with “habitat” are not really helpful since
many whales migrate across habitats anyway and
since the regular observer has no real way to tell
“temperate” habitats apart from “cool temperate”
one. The meaning of the orange W habitat class pre-
vented for the False Killer Whale will likely remain a
mystery to the reader because its meaning is nowhere
explained in the guide. For pinnipeds, their “calls” and
the mentioning of rookeries could have been helpful.

Reptiles and Amphibians of Canada
Lone Pine Publishing, 206, 10426 – 81 Avenue, Edmon-
ton, Alberta T6E 1X5. 208 pages. 18.50 CAD.

It has been 24 years since the first comprehensive
one-volume guide to all Canadian amphibians and
reptiles known at the time appeared (Cook 1984) and
that is now badly out-of-date and, fortunately, out-of
print. There have been new guides to several provinces
since and a highly popularized superficial attempt for
the entire country by Burnstead (2003).

For this new effort, only the third author, the leg-
endary Ron Brooks of the University of Guelph will be
very familiar to most Canadian herpetologists. Brooks
has long been a CITES committee member and crusad-
er and has made an extensive ecological contribution
with a legion of graduate students conducting studies
at Algonquin Park and selected central and southern
Ontario sites. These have produced new insights into
the lives of turtles and aquatic frogs in eastern Canada
and one especially endangered snake (the Blue Racer).
The other two authors have BScs from the University
of Alberta. Chris Fisher is a writer of wildlife articles
and field guides and lecturer on wildlife. Amanda Joynt,
an ecologist from the Okanagan Valley, was a techni-
cian with Parks Canada and Canadian Wildlife Service,
followed by writing full time for Lone Pine publish-
ing, ecological surveys including rare plants in South
Dakota, and direction (2004-2006) of Children in Wild-
erness Malawi, southern Africa. She now is a biologist
for Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Inuvik, North-
west Territories.

The book is traditionally organized and opens with
the mandatory acknowledgements, including one to
Ron Brooks, odd in that he is also a coauthor. There is
a very useful “Species at a glance” which gives a
miniature reproduction of the text illustration, species
by species, together with size, and account page num-
ber. The 12-page Introduction briefly highlights the
antiquity of the groups and their characteristics. A map
plots the location of selected national and provincial
parks in Canada. This is followed by a summation of
major habitats from the temperate west coast to the
Maritimes, a discussion titled “the good, the bad and
the misconceptions”, and another on the general harm-
lessness of most species as well as the negative aspects
of keeping native species (not the least of which is that
in most provinces, is illegal to keep many species
except under permit from resource departments). A few
words on conservation are followed by the headings
used in the species accounts. The latter are the bulk
of the book (150 pages) and cover both native and
introduced species: 11 freshwater or terrestrial turtles
and 4 marine ones, 7 lizards, 26 snakes, 21 salamanders,
and 25 frogs (including toads and treefrogs, etc.).
Three of the turtles and are introduced or likely so, and
two of these probably no longer occur, one lizard is in-
troduced and one apparently extirpated, and one snake
(Timber Rattlesnake) is extirpated.

Each species account is dominated by an enlarged
colour drawing of an adult, and these vary from very
good to embarrassingly bad. Some of the snakes, turtles
and frogs are among the excellent, some salamanders
and virtually all the lizards are poor, the latter particu-
larly washed-out, among other faults. The Common
Garter Snake represented seems to be a particularly odd
colour pattern (a Pacific region variant?) that will be
recognized in most of the country. The Plains Garter
Snake is very pale, typical of the southern and eastern
portions of the range mostly beyond Canada, while the
“Eastern Ribbon Snake” on the next page matches the
majority of Canadian specimens of plains species. In
Canada, Ribbon Snakes rarely have an orange dorsal
stripe (I know of only one report) like the one pictured;
the lateral stripe is usually prominently bordered below
by chocolate, and overall it is more slender. Among
other snakes particularly poorly done are the Red-bel-
lined, Brown, and Green snakes. The species accounts
themselves lead with English and scientific names fol-
lowed by a casual informal introduction, then a para-
graph ID (identification), and one or two lines on
Length, Distribution (with a tiny map of Canadian
range), Habitat, Activity Patterns, Reproduction, Food,
Similar Species, French Name, and a Did You Know
sidebar, the latter focussed on some additional fact re-
garded as particularly remarkable. Each native and ex-
sisting species is given two facing pages. The marine tur-

tles (designated “vagrant species”) fare even less well,
with only a half page each, and the introduced or extir-
pated ones only somewhat better at one page each. The
format of necessity means that only the briefest infor-
mation can be given for each. Sometimes these have
little Canadian relevance. An example is the statement

Overall, it appears that this “guide” is an excerpt of
a better and larger guide book from the same author.
It is useable in the field, but does not replace the real
and classical guide books.}

Falk Huettmann
Centre for Wildlife Ecology, Biology Department, Simon
Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, British
Columbia V5A 1S6 Canada
that the Small-mouthed Salamander “often” shares breeding ponds with Spotted Salamanders. Presumably this applies to United States populations as in Canada the Small-mouthed Salamander has been recorded only on Pelee Island where Spotted Salamanders apparently do not occur. But omitted from the Small-mouthed Salamander account is mention of its extensive hybridization with Blue-spotted Salamanders on Pelee Island although elsewhere the hybridization of Blue-spotted with Jefferson salamanders is recognized.

On the positive side, this book does have all the species we know in Canada to date with distributions, many interesting highlights, and very colourful pictures. These will be found useful by some casually interested uncritical naturalists. However, it is no substitute for the many carefully researched and more comprehensive, within their more limited areas covered, provincial guides available for amphibians and reptiles.

**Literature Cited**


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Guides and Reference to the (1) Snakes, (2) Crocodilians, Turtles, and Lizards (3) Amphibians, of Eastern and Central North America (North of Mexico)

University Press of Florida, 15 NW 15th Street, Gainesville, Florida 32611, 342 (1), 316 (2), 283 (3) pages. 29.95 USD each.

The Bartlett team has produced a number of earlier books: A Field Guide to Florida Reptiles, Reptiles and Amphibians of the Amazon: An Ecotourist’s Guide (2003), and Florida Snakes: A Guide to Their Identification and Habits (2003). R. D. Bartlett, veteran herpetoculturist/herpetologist, founder of the Reptilian Breeding and Research Institute, boasts over 40 years writing and photographing, including more than 500 articles in magazines such as The Tropical Fish Hobbyist, Reptiles, and Reptile and Amphibian. Patricia Bartlett, former director of the Fort Myers Historical Museum, is an editor and writer who, in addition to coauthoring 12 books with R.D.B., also wrote A Dictionary of Sharks.

In these present volumes, the Bartletts have broadened their horizons and compiled a herpetofauna reference in three volumes which cover the entire eastern and central United States and adjacent Canada from the Atlantic to the tier of mid-western states from North Dakota to Texas. However, their southern bias persists. Species which range far north of the U.S. border have only the southern portion of their Canadian range shown on the generally crude distribution maps which only casually outline Canada, with the northern portions of the Canadian-based range are often cut off. No Canadian-based authors are included in the references, despite the many that have studied species included, some even from U.S. populations as well as Canadian material.

Each book has a brief Species List, a Preface and Introduction to the group(s) included. The bulk of the texts are accounts arranged by family and within these by related groups of species, and then individual species accounts. The later includes English and Scientific name followed by sections on Toxicity/Disposition (Snakes), Abundance/Range, Habitat, Size, Identifying features, Voice (in crocodilians and frogs), and Similar Species, Comments, and Additional Subspecies. There is a rather eclectic selection here sometimes of subspecies far to the west of the limits set for the book. There is a distribution map (see comment above), and one or more colour photographs for each species (regrettably without localities or date), but usually of spectacular quality, and it here that the book shines, and wins a place on many shelves.

But why, aside from this, would any Canadian naturalist want these books on their shelf? They do include all the species in eastern Canada, as all of these range north into this country from the United States. These accounts are of reference value for depictions of appearance (many species pictured are different from the Canadian variants) and natural history (contrast from more southern habitats) of these species in areas adjacent to Canada and beyond.

Attractive as it is, it is primarily an add-on for Canadian naturalists unless they are travelling south, and for practical purposes there are now many Canadian and adjacent state guides to reptiles and amphibians combined in single volumes that will be more useful references for identifying our herpetofauna.

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