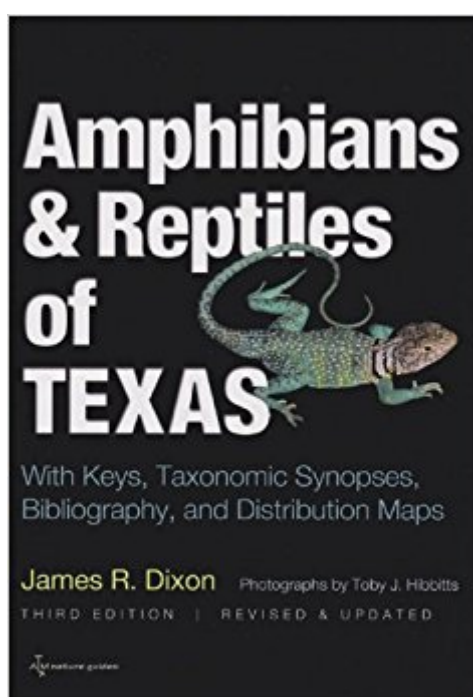


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# Amphibians And Reptiles Of Texas: With Keys, Taxonomic Synopses, Bibliography, And Distribution Maps (W. L. Moody Jr. Natural History Series)



## Synopsis

This third edition of James R. Dixon's *Amphibians and Reptiles of Texas: With Keys, Taxonomic Synopses, Bibliography, and Distribution Maps*, completely redesigned throughout with color photographs, revised taxonomic keys, and updated species descriptions, covers more than two hundred species of amphibians and reptiles. As in the previous editions, the book includes an extensive listing of the literature on Texas amphibians and reptiles that goes back to the historic writings of Berlandier, in the early nineteenth century, and is updated to reflect the most recent research. Comprehensive distribution maps, updated references, and an exhaustive bibliography round out this latest edition of what has come to be widely recognized as the standard scientific guide and reference for professional, academic, and amateur naturalists interested in the herpetofauna of Texas.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a biologist in Texas I bought this book given the updated taxonomy and range maps. It is a welcomed addition to my shelf and for its purpose it probably deserves a good 5 stars. However for those amateurs and casual naturalists, this is perhaps not the book you want. This is NOT a field guide, it is pretty academic. There are no species accounts per se, no measurements, no biology etc. other than a few brief comments, though the authors do guide the reader toward other publications for that purpose. The range maps are based solely on confirmed specimens and or

photographs. Thus in a number of instances I find the actual range/county records to be lacking based on this criteria but I fully understand the reasoning behind this approach. This edition does reflect the most current taxonomic arrangement/changes to date by two of the most respected herpetologists in the state with the senior author providing his thoughts on how he interprets his approach to be in the introduction. The authors have provided exhaustive citations and keys to species, indeed to the point those involve nearly half of the text of this rather large, heavy book. I appreciate this. There are color photos of every species, as examples, sometimes showing morphological or subspecies differences. For the serious student or field biologist the ref. materials and documented records (by county), this ref. will prove invaluable. As an identification or field guide, it is not going to satisfy. Still it will have an important spot, as I said, on my shelf. I just wanted to make sure the reader was clear on what the intent of this book is. It is less than clear when one is looking for a small portable field guide via . I just wish it included more in the way of species accounts/biology

This book is excellent and a much needed revision to the previous edition when used as a reference book (this is key). This book IS NOT A FIELD GUIDE and not meant to be one which seems to be the only reason it has received negative reviews here. The purpose of this book is to show the county by county distribution of Amphibians and Reptiles in Texas and to provide a comprehensive bibliography list for people who want to read further on a specific species. The bibliography in this book is 4229 references long very substantial. To those who are not aware let me explain why this book is useful. When a new county record for Texas is published in Herpetological Review or other journals for an Amphibian or Reptile it is always this book (one of the editions) by Dixon that is listed as the reference for the submitter to show it is a new county record. The previous edition was written around 10 years ago and many county records have been added so a revision was needed. I have corresponded with Dr. Dixon over the years through email when I was submitting some specimens to him at the Texas Cooperative collection to be added as a new county record. Thus, this is also the first revision that has listed me in the bibliography for county records which I had been waiting for.

Dixon has combined a lot of sources and put together range maps with a dot in each county that each animal has been reported in the state. This is the why I bought the book. You can find more thorough information about each species elsewhere, but nowhere else can you find all species reported for particular counties...granted you have to identify the county from the little map itself but

you can compare to an online map of counties if need be. The beginning of the book has identification keys. I have yet to test the accuracy but the keys are thorough and the author is well known and highly respected so I have no doubt they are useful should you need them. The book serves the exact purpose I bought it. Highly recommended as noted.

I'll admit, I got this book for class (Herpetology) and at first it seemed like nothing but a slightly strange catalog of unpictured specimens. But after some basic herp lectures I started actually venturing out looking for species (turtles and lizards mostly, because the Louisiana/Florida native in me will never purposefully try to find snakes that are minding their own business) I found this to be at times more useful than my actual field guides. The photos are phenomenal, and the format is clean and easy to catch on to. The record maps are very useful if you want to find something specific or just determine what *should* be in an area. If you do anything with Texas herps this is invaluable.

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