Reptiles of the Pacific World

This book is one of a series of seven books on the Pacific World, published under the auspices of the American Committee for International Wild Life Protection. Though it covers a wide field, it is a very readable and useful book.

There are separate chapters on the various groups of reptiles occurring in the Pacific area, chapters on poisonous snakes and the treatment of snake bite, a chapter on Pacific amphibians, and two chapters on collecting, preserving, and shipping specimens. At the end of the book is a chart showing the distribution in the Pacific of the various families of reptiles and amphibians, and a brief bibliography. The book contains numerous keys, and there are 70 line drawings illustrating the characters used in the keys. A great deal of space is devoted to accounts of the habits of the groups treated.

Except in a few groups, no attempt is made to present a complete taxonomic account of the Pacific forms. However, the reader will be able to identify a Pacific reptile or amphibian down to family, and often farther. The distribution chart will enable one to quickly determine what forms to expect in any island group, though it omits a few cases of introduced species. To many readers the most interesting parts of this book will be the accounts of the habits of the types discussed.

It is unfortunate that this book did not appear a few years ago when so many military personnel were going to Pacific areas. However, those who have spent time in the Pacific will find this book particularly interesting.—D. J. Borror.