
Handbook of Snakes of the United States and Canada. *Albert Hazen Wright and Anna Allen Wright.* Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, New York. 1957. 2 Vol. xviii+1105 pp. \$14.75.

The authors have endeavored to bring up to date in three volumes the mass of accumulated information on the snakes of the United States and Canada. Thus far the first two volumes are complete. The third volume, planned as a bibliography of snakes, should make this series a classic in this field as the author's *Handbook of Frogs and Toads of the United States and Canada* has become a classic in its field.

These two volumes contain a table of contents; an introduction; keys to families, genera, species, and subspecies; accounts of species; an illustrated glossary; a list of North American references; and an index. The keys are accompanied by excellent illustrations which should help anyone using them, especially the inexperienced person. Although the keys are excellent, the reviewer feels that page numbers added to the key would have facilitated its use. In addition to the illustrated key, hundreds of individual photographs have been used to make up composite photographs showing the distinctive characteristics of many of the species. In the discussion of each species information has been arranged as far as possible in the following manner: Name of species, range (including distribution maps), size of adults, longevity, distinctive characteristics, color, habitat, period of activity, breeding, ecdysis, food, venom, enemies, field notes, and authorities.

The style of writing is clear and easy to read. The printing and illustrations are excellent. In the reviewer's opinion this *Handbook of Snakes* will be highly appreciated by both the specialist and the amateur naturalist.

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