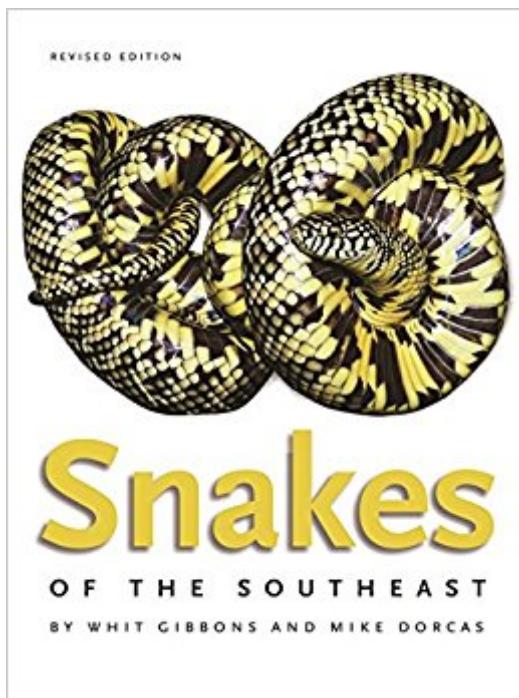


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# Snakes Of The Southeast (Wormsloe Foundation Nature Book Ser.)



## Synopsis

Fifty-three kinds of snakes can be found in the Southeast, almost half of all species native to North America. Filled with more than 300 color photographs and written by two renowned herpetologists, this new edition is the most comprehensive authoritative guide to the snakes of the region. At the heart of the book are its heavily illustrated, fact-filled descriptions of each snake species. Also included is a wealth of general information about the importance of snake conservation and the biology, diversity, habitats, and ecology of snakes. Find useful information about the interactions of humans and snakes: species that are likely to be found near houses, snakes as pets, what to do in case of a snakebite, and more. The revised edition of *Snakes of the Southeast* includes new photos, the latest research findings, new species discoveries, and the most current geographic range maps. Clearly written, cleanly designed, and fun to use, this guide promotes a better understanding of the conservation of this fascinating but often maligned group of animals.

**Features:**

- Conservation-oriented approach
- Over 300 color photographs, including many new images for this edition
- New distribution maps for 53 species of snakes
- New accounts of invasive snakes of the Southeast
- Clear descriptions of each species, including differences in the appearance of young and mature snakes
- Size charts, key identifiers (scales, body shape, patterns, and color), descriptions of habitat, behavior and activity, food and feeding, reproduction, predators and defense, and conservation

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Clearly written, cleanly designed, and fun to use, [Snakes of the Southeast] is a guide that will promote a better understanding of the habitat needs of, and environmental challenges to, snakes. (Bob Edmonds McCormick Messenger)The Southeast is especially ripe for a book that places snakes in a context that can help catalyze a change in attitudes toward these badly maligned animals. This profusely illustrated book is a big step in the right direction. . . . The information presented here is detailed yet presented in an easy-to-understand format. This is a worthy and valuable addition to the natural history literature of the Southeast. This book should be carried by anyone going into any natural area of the Southeast. It should be kept on hand even in urban and other areas where snakes could turn up. (Copeia)Small, medium, large, water, and venomous snakes are included as well as backyard snakes, pets, attitudes about them, and conservation. (SciTech Book News)This is the most comprehensive educational guide to the snakes of the southeastern United States. Clearly written, well designed, and fun to use, the guide will promote better understanding of the habitat needs of, and the environmental challenges to, this fascinating group of animals. (Center for North American Herpetology)A treasure to anyone having an interest in becoming a herpetologist . . . The photographs will attract every herpetologist, as they are fit in perfect context, and mostly never seen in publications before. Certainly the price will make it highly affordable for both the novice and professional herpetologist. (Bulletin of the Maryland Herpetological Society)Easy to read . . . An informative book for the general public aimed at educating those with a limited knowledge of snakes. (Southeastern Naturalist)Makes an eloquent case for the environmental importance of these slithery denizens of field, forest, swamp and backyard . . . The poisonous snakes evoke the most interest, of course, and the authors do a good job of debunking the many lurid myths that enshroud these vipers. (Mobile Register)A storehouse of easily digested information. (Athens Banner-Herald)

More than 25,000 copies sold

Comprehensive but easy read for even a novice.

The photographs are the star attraction in this book. Most species are illustrated with white background shots, several beautiful natural settings and held by a human (which is valuable for scale). In many cases juvenile and adult specimens are included. The authors accompany these delightful pictures with two to four pages of clear and comprehensive information about each snake (including identification checklist and both continental US and Southeast range maps). The authors

stick in some interesting and amusing observations in sidebars. If you have the 2005 edition, my guess is you won't find it worthwhile to upgrade. This book does add the newly discovered (2012) Kirtland's Snake, but it has been found only in one small area of northern Kentucky (it is much more common in Ohio and Indiana). Oddly enough, both books claim 53 snakes (you can get anywhere from 51 to 56 depending on how you count, but whatever method you use, the new edition has one more snake). The Eastern Garter Snake has been replaced by the closely-related Common Gartersnake, although I think two of the pictures are actually Easterns, and some of the description applies better to Easterns as well. The list for further reading has been only slightly updated, despite some excellent candidate books in the last ten years. I could wish for a few improvements. The index covers only snake names (both common and scientific) so you cannot look up a topic, or even look up a snake by a common name other than the one chosen by the authors. There is no identification hierarchy or checklist that would allow you to identify a snake seen in the wild or in a picture. You have to guess the snake, look it up, and see if it matches the identification attributes listed. All measurements are in English units, I prefer metric in scientific books. But these are minor gripes in a book that manages to be beautiful, clear, interesting, precise and accurate.

The somewhat reclusive stars of this glossy full-color guide, *Snakes of the Southeast*, are sleek and attractive with serious animal magnetism, and unusual appetites. [Plot Spoiler] The villains are just deeply misunderstood. Watch for cameos by heavies from Africa, Latin America and the Indian sub-continent. The authors have set out to cure Ophidiophobia, one glossy page at a time. The southeastern states of the US have more than fifty native species of snakes; more than twenty are bright gems in shades of red, orange, yellow and green and easy to identify. Only a handful are venomous and you are more likely to be hit by a bolt of lightning than die from a snakebite. Or win the big lottery jackpot. That puts it in perspective, doesn't it? This gorgeous guide to snakes will encourage nature lovers, educators, parents and couch potatoes who know they really ought to get outside more often, to tread lightly and embrace the reptilian denizens of our wild and urban landscapes. (Kids already love snakes, no need to stimulate their curiosity.) *Being able to identify animals and plants is one of the first steps in developing an appreciation for nature . . . Such information is easy to learn and can greatly add to your enjoyment of nature in general and snakes in particular.* *Truer words were never spoken.* Species accounts aka *What Snake Is That?* *include crystal clear photos, field marks, range maps and snake trivia even snake aficionados, myself included, will find remarkable.* Who knew that cottonmouths, or water moccasins, were

reluctant to defend themselves by biting? And how do we know this? *“*Investigators tested how more than fifty cottonmouths responded to being stepped on and picked up by humans.*”* You*”*ll have to read the book to see what the heck that was all about. Some startling statistics are found throughout: Those stories you*”*ve heard about mega pythons proliferating in the Everglades? All true. A few years after breeding populations of non-native pythons were discovered the relative abundance of raccoons and possums dropped 99%. Formerly abundant rabbits? A big fat zero. Pythons have even been known to eat alligators. Now there*”*s an Instagram photo op. This book is a real find, the authors have pulled together a useful and attractive handbook on snakes for your next nature ramble, whether it*”*s in your backyard or deep into the subtropical habitats of the southeast. (Armchair naturalists welcome.) I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Love it. Great pictures.

This is a very informative book. Excellent reading and copiously illustrated with great pictures.

Great resource and educational tool

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