

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	vii
Introduction	1
Bioregions of California	6
Biotic Communities of California	8
Conservation of California Amphibians and Reptiles	22
Identifying California Amphibians and Reptiles	25

SPECIES ACCOUNTS **29**

Order Caudata—Salamanders **30**

Family Ambystomatidae—Mole Salamanders	30
Family Dicamptodontidae—Giant Salamanders	34
Family Plethodontidae—Lungless Salamanders	36
Family Rhyacotritonidae—Torrent Salamanders	72
Family Salamandridae—Newts	73

Order Anura—Frogs **78**

Family Ascaphidae—Tailed Frogs	78
Family Bufonidae—American Toads	79
Family Eleutherodactylidae—New World Rain Frogs	88
Family Hylidae—Treefrogs	88
Family Pipidae—Tongueless Frogs	91
Family Ranidae—True Frogs	92
Family Scaphiopodidae—New World Spadefoots	106

Order Testudines—Turtles and Tortoises **110**

Family Cheloniidae—Sea Turtles	110
Family Chelydridae—Snapping Turtles	113
Family Dermochelyidae—Leatherback Sea Turtles	114
Family Emydidae—Water Turtles	115
Family Kinosternidae—Mud and Musk Turtles	121
Family Testudinidae—Tortoises	123
Family Trionychidae—Softshell Turtles	124

Order Squamata, Suborder Lacertilia—Lizards	126
Family Anguidae—Alligator Lizards	126
Family Anniellidae—Legless Lizards	129
Family Chamaeleonidae—Chameleons	133
Family Crotaphytidae—Collared and Leopard Lizards	134
Family Dactyloidae—Anoles	138
Family Eublepharidae—Eyelid Geckos	140
Family Gekkonidae—Common Geckos	141
Family Helodermatidae—Beaded Lizards and Gila Monster	145
Family Iguanidae—Iguanas	146
Family Lacertidae—Lacertas	148
Family Phrynosomatidae—Spiny Lizards	150
Family Phyllodactylidae—Leaf-toed Geckos	166
Family Scincidae—Skinks	169
Family Teiidae—Whiptails	172
Family Xantusiidae—Night Lizards	177
 Order Squamata, Suborder Serpentes—Snakes	 182
Family Boidae—Boas	182
Family Colubridae—Colubrid Snakes	185
Family Elapidae—Coralsnakes, Cobras, Sea Snakes, and Relatives	216
Family Leptotyphlopidae—Threadsnakes	217
Family Typhlopidae—South Asian Blindsnakes	218
Family Viperidae—Vipers	219
 Species Potentially Occurring in California	 230
Color Plates	233
Larval Amphibian Identification	398
Range Maps	430
Taxonomic Notes	492
Glossary	504
Resources	509
Venomous Snakebite	512
Rattlesnake Myths	513
Index	514
Species Checklist	519