

CONTENTS

Preface: Natural History and This Book	ix
Acknowledgments	xiii

INTRODUCTION	1
Amphibians and Reptiles: The Vertebrate Terrestrial Pioneers	2
Amphibian and Reptile Distribution throughout California's Habitat Complex	5
Ongoing Loss of Habitats and Numbers of California's Amphibians and Reptiles	23
Protective Status of Some Amphibians and Reptile Species	29
Common and Latin Name Changes	31
New Species, Genera, and Families	31
Field Identification Keys	32
 AMPHIBIANS	 35
Taxonomy, Anatomy, Physiology, and Behavior of Amphibians	36
 Salamanders (Order Caudata)	67
Key to the Families and Genera of Salamanders	68
Mole Salamanders (Family Ambystomatidae)	69
Giant Salamanders (Family Dicamptodontidae)	84
Torrent or Seep Salamanders (Family Rhyacotritonidae)	89
Newts (Family Salamandridae)	92
Lungless Salamanders (Family Plethodontidae)	104
 Frogs and Toads (Order Anura)	149
Key to the Families and Genera of Frogs and Toads	150
Tailed Frogs (Family Ascaphidae)	150
Spadefoots (Family Pelobatidae)	154
True Toads (Family Bufonidae)	161
Chorus Frogs (Family Hylidae)	179
True Frogs (Family Ranidae)	186
Tongueless Frogs (Family Pipidae)	212

REPTILES

217

Taxonomy, Anatomy, Physiology, and Behavior of Reptiles

218

Lizards and Snakes (Order Squamata)

233



Lizards (Suborder Sauria)

235

Key to the Families and Genera of Lizards	236
Geckos (Families Eublepharidae and Gekkonidae)	245
Eyelid Geckos (Family Eublepharidae)	247
Geckos (Family Gekkonidae)	251
Iguanids (Family Iguanidae)	253
Collared and Leopard Lizards (Family Crotaphytidae)	260
Family Phrynosomatidae	270
Night Lizards (Family Xantusiidae)	307
Skinks (Family Scincidae)	313
Teiids (Family Teiidae)	318
Alligator Lizards and Relatives (Family Anguidae)	325
North American Legless Lizards (Family Anniellidae)	331
Venomous Lizards (Family Helodermatidae)	334



Snakes (Suborder Serpentes [Ophidia])

339

Key to the Families and Genera of Snakes	340
Blind Snakes (Family Leptotyphlopidae)	350
Boas and Pythons (Family Boidae)	352
Colubrids (Family Colubridae)	355
Sea Snakes (Family Hydrophiidae [Elapidae])	400
Vipers (Family Viperidae)	401



Tortoises and Turtles (Order Testudines)

423

Key to the Species of Tortoises and Turtles	423
Land Tortoises (Family Testudinidae)	426
Pond Turtles (Family Emydidae)	430
Softshell Turtles (Family Trionychidae)	439
Snapping Turtles (Family Chelydridae)	442
Sea Turtles (Families Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae)	445
Sea Turtles (Family Cheloniidae)	448
Leatherback Sea Turtle (Family Dermochelyidae)	454

Observing and Photographing Amphibians and Reptiles	457
Capturing Amphibians and Reptiles	469
Amphibian and Reptile Husbandry	481
Checklist of California Amphibian and Reptile Species	485
Abbreviations	493
Glossary	495
Selected References	501
Index	505