voucher specimens can now be found. Another Black Montana record, the Spotted Chorus Frog, *Pseudacris clarkii*, is here relegated to the "exotic species" list, as based on misidentification of green-spotted variants of the widespread and abundant Boreal Chorus Frog, *Pseudacris maculata*. This is certainly the correct interpretation as similarly patterned individuals are present in adjacent populations of Boreal Chorus Frogs in Alberta and Saskatchewan (FRC, personal observations).

A bibliographic index of amphibian/reptile guides for Montana and surrounding states and provinces has surprisingly omitted The British Columbia Museum Handbooks to amphibians by Carl first published in 1943, and by Green and Campbell in 1984 and to reptiles by Carl first published in 1944 and by Gregory and Campbell in 1984. Perhaps they are regarded as superseded by the more recent publications listed for American authors which include British Columbia. Canadian provincial guides to Alberta and Saskatchewan, however, are included. A bibliography includes 543 entries. A detailed form for reporting incidental observations and a map of Montana counties conclude the book.

The thoroughness of preparation and evaluation of records make this volume a notable contribution to the growing effort to produce detailed state atlases. When the records are as carefully evaluated as they are here, they have broad use, not just for conservationists and zoogeographers, but for keen field naturalists who want a base-line of information in order to evaluate their own past and future observations for potential significance.

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Guide to the Reptiles of the Eastern Palearctic

By Nikolai N. Szczerbak. Technical Edit by Michael L. Golubev. 2003. Krieger Publishing Company, P. O. Box 9542, Melbourne, Florida 32902-9542, 250 pages. Cloth U.S. $73.50 ISBN 1-57524-004.1.

The text was originally prepared to cover the 22 million km^2 (11 million of which is affected by permafrost) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics but the subsequent breakup of that political entity necessitated retitling. As the former USSR encompassed much of Palearctic [Palaearctic of some texts] of zoogeographers, exclusive only of western Europe and southern Asia, the revised title in appropriate. The author, Nikolai N. Szcerbak (1927-1998) had excellent credentials as a long-time staff member of the zoological museum of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences Zoology Institute and, later, the Ukrainian Natural History Museum. He participated in almost 60 expeditions, visiting every area of the USSR, and authored or coauthored 24 monographs, 12 popular science books, and close to 300 scientific articles. From the title one expects a volumen equivalent to the 1999 *Amphibians of the Former Soviet Union* by S. L. Kuzmin (reviewed 2002 in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* 116(4): 665-666) but much less detail is delivered here, not surprising in that over four times the number of reptiles are covered compared to the amphibians (165 vs 40).

There are only 11 pages of introductory general material and a herpetological overview of the eastern Palearctic and its subdivisions. The bulk of the text, 220 pages, is keys and species accounts. The latter give Distribution (for former USSR and extralimital), Natural History (including habitat, food, activity, fecundity, incubation or gestation, size at hatching or birth, age of maturity and maximum size), Status (abundance and if at risk), References and Remarks, the latter including taxonomic notes and subspecies recognition and range. There is an outline map of the former USSR for each species with the range indicated in black. The centre of the book has 194 adequate colour photographs depicting habitats (half page each) and species and subspecies (a third of a page each), the latter most often on natural backgrounds.

A total of 168 species (55 genera) are recognized for the region. Included are 7 species (5 genera) of turtles and tortoises; 98 (25) lizards; and 63 (25) snakes. This contrasts with 39 species (26 genera) of reptiles for Canada where there are 8 (7) [exclusive of marine and introduced species] turtles; 6 (3) lizards; 25 (16) snakes. The disproportionate numbers of snakes and lizards in the eastern Palaearctic is largely due to more extensive southern latitude arid areas included where a greater diversity of reptiles have evolved, as in the arid southwestern United States. All three turtle families represented have species in Canada, as do 3 of the 6 families of lizards and 3 of the 6 families of snakes. No species and few genera are common to Canada, only the large "catch-alls" of the latter, *Eumeces* for the lizards, and *Coluber* and *Elaphe* for snakes. For them, eventual revisions will likely distinguish a nearctic group from the palearctic one as already has been accepted for the turtles *Emydoidea* and *Emys*, and snakes *Nerodia* and *Natrix*.

The book concludes with a 13-page bibliography, including many papers in Russian [with translated titles], mostly from the 1980s and early 1990s, none later than 1996.

Overall this useful summary of knowledge of the northeastern Palearctic herpetofauna to the mid-1990s has much to stimulate the comparative zoogeographer and/or ecologist.

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