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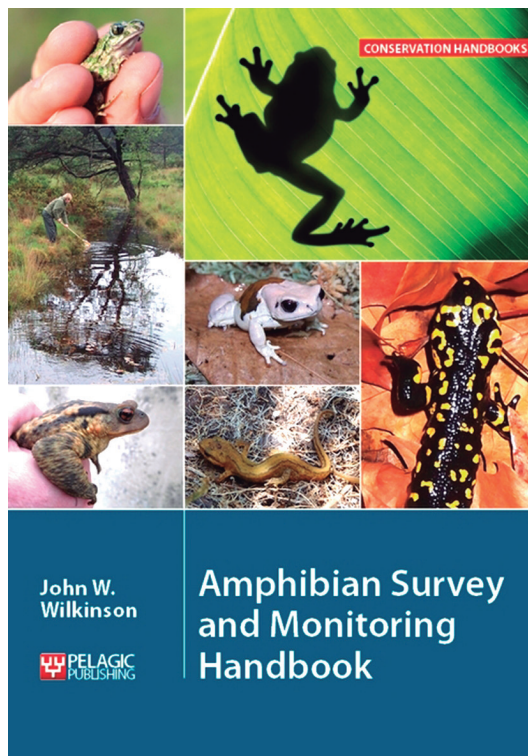
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This comprehensive guide to surveying amphibians in the field should prove invaluable to anyone starting out on this activity, and will also be of interest to those already well versed in the subject. Coverage is organised into three main sections after an initial introduction to the basics of amphibian biology, where there is a trivial error. Caecilians belong to Gymnophiona, not Gymnophonia. These sections comprise planning a survey, executing it, and subsequent use of the data including advice on writing reports and the importance of statistics. A final chapter on resources covers miscellaneous subjects including identification guides, health and safety issues and equipment suppliers. A reference list and a glossary are also provided.

Attention to detail is such that in some cases basic common sense should suffice; the importance of carrying spare batteries for torches and other electrical devices, for example, is reiterated on several occasions. For beginners, however, this type of repetition is probably valuable and even old hands sometimes forget such essentials. The same goes for the section on handling amphibians, which many of us learnt to do by trial and error (not ideal for the animals or the surveyor). Other issues, which feature much more strongly today than was the case a couple of decades ago include licensing requirements, hygiene to minimise infection risks and, in particular, attendance to health and safety matters. All of these subjects are well covered, often with illustrative examples.



Although the author's personal experience is mainly based in Britain, he does a good job outlining the entire range of methods for both aquatic and terrestrial species in a wide range of habitats all around the world. None that I am aware of were missed out and mention is made of environmental DNA sampling to assess whether a species is present in a particular pond. This technique is still in its infancy but the author has contributed to very successful trials of the approach for surveying great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* in Britain. There are numerous photos and helpful diagrams, including ones showing how to construct and deploy live traps in ponds and to design survey transects for terrestrial species. All the methods are described in sufficient detail for immediate application but most are also supported by examples of their use in published studies, providing a valuable combination of information.

Evidence bases for conservation are becoming increasingly important to convince landowners and politicians of the need to take action in defence of species and habitats all around the world. A valuable feature of this book is its emphasis on collecting and analysing data in a sufficiently rigorous way as to provide such essential information. The text combines

clarity of purpose, clear exposition and thoughtful considerations about amphibian surveying and the reasons for doing it. Altogether a good read.

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