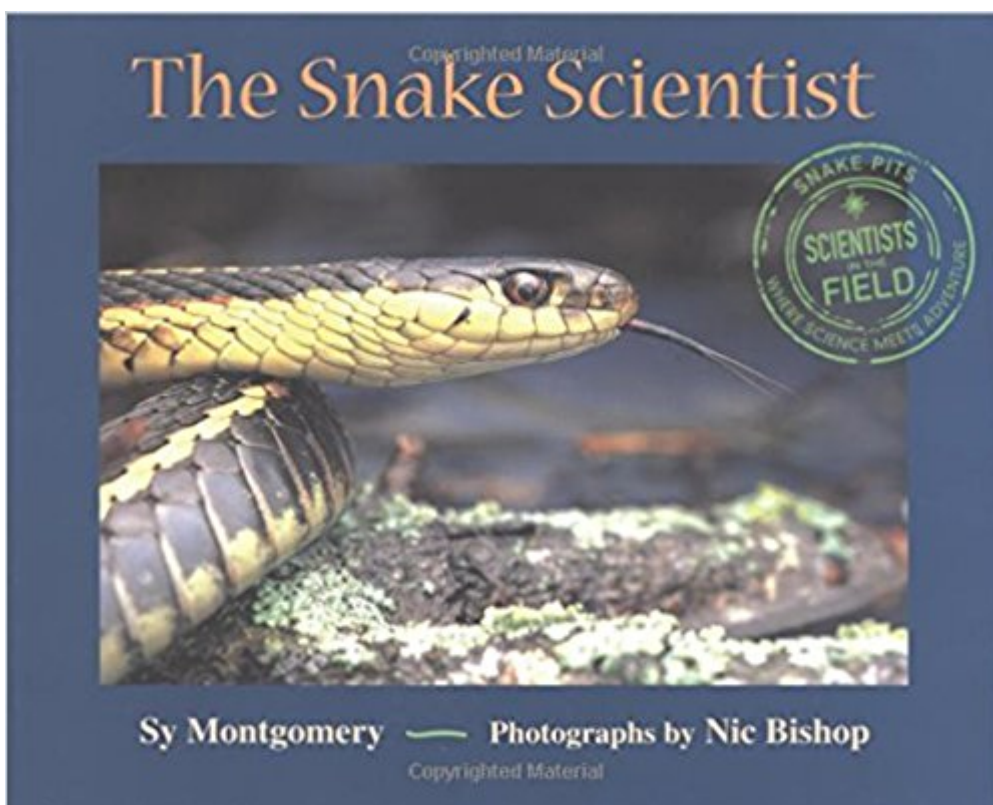


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# The Snake Scientist (Scientists In The Field Series)



## Synopsis

Dr. Robert Mason has been studying a mysterious phenomenon for over fifteen years: the reemergence of tens of thousands of red-sided garter snakes — the world's largest concentration of snakes — after a winter spent in a state of suspended animation in subterranean caverns. This gathering each spring in the forests of Manitoba, Canada, is one of the most extraordinary events of the natural world and is the subject of study for Dr. Mason, a.k.a. the Snake Scientist.

## Book Information

Series: Scientists in the Field Series

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

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Reptiles & Amphibians

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8-The excitement of science in action fills the pages of these two books. Montgomery focuses on one man and his research on the red-sided garter snake in Canada. The lively text communicates both the meticulous measurements required in this kind of work and the thrill of new discoveries. Large, full-color photos of the zoologist and young students at work, and lots of wriggly snakes, pull readers into the presentation. A list of "unsolved mysteries" about the snakes and instructions on visiting the snake dens will keep interest high to the very last page. Swinburne gives a historical perspective on the extermination of wolves from the Lower 48 states and details the work of biologists in their efforts to reintroduce the animals into Yellowstone National Park. Vintage

illustrations (including pictures of dead wolves) and excellent full-color photos document a struggle that, unfortunately, is far from over. A map showing current and historical wolf ranges and a list for further reading that includes books, periodicals, and Web sites are helpful additions. Two outstanding titles that show scientists at work. Ruth S. Vose, San Francisco Public Library Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The park guides at Narcisse Wildlife Management Area in Manitoba, Canada, will tell you to watch your step— there might be a snake underfoot. With 18,000 red-sided garter snakes slithering around, they are likely to be right! Each spring, after eight months of hibernating underground, the snakes make their way to the surface and pour out of the earth. Some people might prefer to stay away from the site of the world's greatest concentration of snakes, but others, such as scientist Bob Mason, are drawn to it. There he "can see more snakes in a day than in the course of a three-year field study" anywhere else. Mason and his assistants have been studying these snakes for 15 years. Author Sy Montgomery, with the help of Nic Bishop's exceptional photos, enables the reader to join Mason and his team in the field and look over their shoulders as they work. (Montgomery also wrote "Eat Your Lawn!" on page 8 of this issue.) They gather pillowcases full of snakes, record the length, weight and temperature of each one, and perform experiments, such as sending snakes through mazes. Questions they are investigating include: Why are only adult snakes found in the dens? How do these snakes find mates? And how do they navigate the 20 miles between the marshes where they feed during the summer and their winter dens? The Snake Scientist is a must-read for any snake lover or budding naturalist. It may even make grown-ups want to grow up to be scientists. Joan Silberlicht Epstein --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Purchased as a gift for a granddaughter who loves snake study The book is more limited in scope than I had hoped it would be. But it is accurate as to the title and accurately represented on .com. Would probably buy it again for another child interested in snakes.

I bought the book for my daughter, she loved it.

Very informative with good photos....about activities at a Canadian "Snake zoo". 8-year-old wanted a non-fiction book that he could read concerning snakes.

I love it because its something to read to the kids! Since I own 10 snakes, it gives the kids a small understanding of one of the most harmful snakes!

Good book for classroom use.

the best way to learn is to read this book and to go explore, but be careful. let go everyone

I bought this book for my six-year-old son at the zoo last year and he LOVES it. Although the text is a bit advanced for his age, he enjoys learning about the work herpetologists do in the field. He especially likes the photos that show the scientists weighing and measuring the snakes. In fact, my son became so interested in the red-sided garter snake that we took a trip from Washington, DC, to Narcisse, Manitoba, for his birthday this past May. We both had an awesome time observing and holding the snakes, some 30,000 of which come out of hibernation en masse each spring! It was so funny listening to my precocious son telling other park visitors facts about the snakes that he learned from the book and advising them to "be careful not to disturb a mating pair"!

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