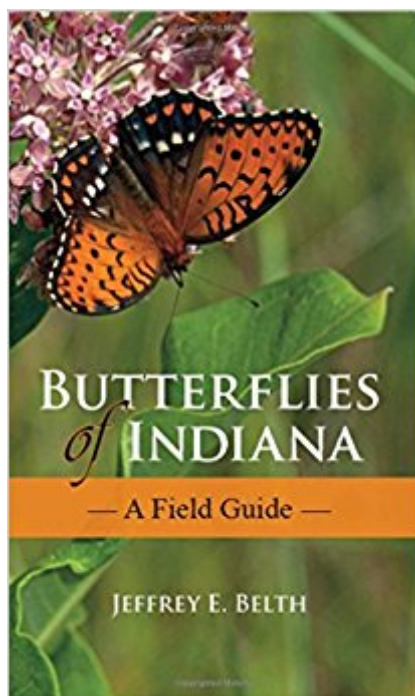


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Butterflies Of Indiana: A Field Guide (Indiana Natural Science)



Synopsis

Winner of the 2013 National Outdoor Book Award for best Nature Guidebook. This book is the first field guide to Indiana's butterflies and their close relatives, the skippers. All species and subspecies recorded from the state are shown. An illustrated "Quick Key" narrows the identification process to several similar species. Photographs with arrows pointing to "field marks" then highlight the differences between those species and allow easy identification, even for people just beginning their study of butterflies. Text, range map, and abundance graph are opposite the photographs for easy reference. Also included are photographs of eggs, larvae, or chrysalises of many species.

Numerous plants important to butterflies, either as larval hosts or as nectar sources, are also depicted. Fully illustrated chapters describing Indiana's natural regions, how to find butterflies, watching and photographing butterflies, butterfly biology and behavior, butterfly habitats, and butterfly conservation, are also included.

Book Information

Series: Indiana Natural Science

Paperback: 344 pages

Publisher: Indiana University Press (December 19, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0253009553

ISBN-13: 978-0253009555

Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 0.8 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #217,131 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Butterflies #1299 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Fauna #3224 in Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local

Customer Reviews

"This unique effort is the most complete guide to butterfly watching I've ever seen--with visual identification keys that a true novice can follow, supplemented with accurate status updates, distribution maps and abundance and seasonal graphs. If these were all it included, it would be an admirable accomplishment--but there are another 150 pages devoted to butterfly life history, conservation, gardening, photography, watching and more. This is the complete guide to the appreciation of Indiana's butterflies."--John Shuey, Director of Conservation Science, The Nature

Conservancy, Indiana Chapter"[T]his is unquestionably the finest local butterfly field guide ever produced. . . . I would suggest this field guide to everyone who has an interest in North American butterflies. Although it treats only the fauna of Indiana, its significance extends well beyond the boundaries of that state. If I were to write my dream field guide, it would surely resemble *Butterflies of Indiana*."--News of the Lepidopterists' Society Winner of the 2013 National Outdoor Book Award in the Nature Guidebook category.--National Outdoor Book Awards (NOBA) Foundation "My excitement about our state's butterflies jumped several notches after reading the superbly illustrated *Butterflies of Indiana: A Field Guide*. It is a must-have book for anyone interested in these jewels of the insect world." •Michael A. Homoya, author of *Wildflowers and Ferns of Indiana Forests: A Field Guide*

This field guide to Indiana's rich butterfly fauna covers all 149 species of butterflies and their close relatives, the skippers. Over 500 color photographs illustrate the undersides and uppersides of most species and highlight the variations found among them, both seasonally and between males and females. For beginners and experts, *Butterflies of Indiana* also offers an introduction to the natural history of butterflies. The simple and intuitive design of this guide and its wealth of features will make it a faithful companion for butterfly watchers, collectors, gardeners, birders, and naturalists.

As the author of a relatively recent (2007) regional butterfly field guide (for the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento Valley, California), I have a natural disposition to think my book is the best of its genre around. Well, I HAD such a disposition...because this brand-new book is clearly the best in the U.S. to date. Among its unusual features are extraordinarily good sections on the natural (ecological, physiographic, climatic) regions of Indiana and specific areas of special interest, a copiously-illustrated section on host plants and nectar sources, and the best short course in butterfly photography that I have seen. You don't have to live in Indiana to find this book immensely valuable. Hell, it's immensely valuable to me, and I'm half a continent away!

I love butterflies but had trouble identifying and then remembering from one observation to the next. This guide is unlike all other I have used because it shows similar butterflies, many life-sized or 1 1/2 x life size, next to each other and clearly points out the small but crucial differences that you can confidently use to decide what you are observing. For example, today I was able to clearly identify an American Lady and tell that it wasn't a Painted Lady by the characteristics of the eyespots on the under hindwing. And I know I will retain the differences for the next time I run into one. I was also

able to see and identify my first ever Southern Dogface and know now I will be able to do it again. Both of these are "firsts" for me and I am thrilled I saw them and could ID them on the same day. When I noticed so many butterflies flitting about the garden today, I ran in to get the guide, then stood at the garden edge for a half-hour and saw and ID'd so many species, including the 2 mentioned above. My best butterfly watching day ever, and this guide made it so.

Was pleasantly surprised when it turned out to be better than expected. In addition to covering butterflies, it also had a section covering the Skippers found in Indiana. There are illustrated plates (not bad but unfortunately separate from the main description) & descriptions including pointers & ID help. There are sections covering (in a limited fashion) some sample caterpillars (including a few moth commonly found in Indiana), larva & adult host plants (including pictures & some basic information), and a great variety of information on top of that. Includes regional information of both geographic & faunal nature, some information about the butterflies themselves (sight, smell, etc.), and hints & techniques for collecting, attracting, and photographing them among other things. Highly recommended even for those with a "more than basic" knowledge of butterflies.

I live in Iowa and purchased this guide because many of the butterfly species found in Iowa are also found in Indiana. Plus, it was a great value, especially for all the information packed into a single guide small enough to carry comfortably in the field. Besides just identification tips for use in the field, Mr. Belth included sections explaining butterflies to beginners and how to identify a butterfly you are unfamiliar with, plus descriptions of Indiana's natural habitats and activities related to butterfly watching such as rearing, photography, and conservation. I especially appreciated learning new field marks for identification and the thorough, relevant section on butterfly photography. This book will be as helpful in the field as it is enjoyable to read on the sofa in winter.

The only book I have ever found that teaches you how to identify butterflies/moths by their flight pattern. This book is useful in any state of this country. Jeff and his wife Sandy are an amazing couple to follow around in one of their informative seminars. Very much worth hiring to teach seminars and their book is the icing on the cake. I count myself so lucky to be in the area to attend their annual spring seminar in Southern Indiana.

Excellent reference book

The best butterfly field guide I have seen. Very informative illustrations with field marks clearly labeled. Well organized. Works for Ohio! I feel confident that I can ID all the butterflies I see in Ohio.

An excellent source for identifying skippers that we have in the Piedmont area of Virginia.

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