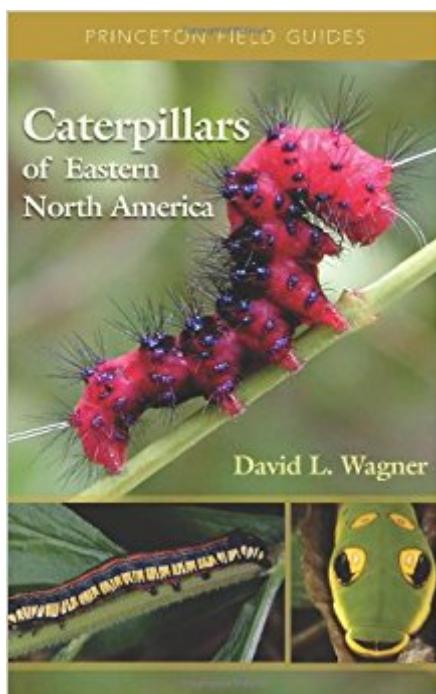


The book was found

Caterpillars Of Eastern North America: A Guide To Identification And Natural History (Princeton Field Guides)



Synopsis

This lavishly illustrated guide will enable you to identify the caterpillars of nearly 700 butterflies and moths found east of the Mississippi. The more than 1,200 color photographs and two dozen line drawings include numerous exceptionally striking images. The giant silk moths, tiger moths, and many other species covered include forest pests, common garden guests, economically important species, and of course, the Mescal Worm and Mexican Jumping Bean caterpillars. Full-page species accounts cover almost 400 species, with up to six images per species including an image of the adult plus succinct text with information on distribution, seasonal activity, foodplants, and life history. These accounts are generously complemented with additional images of earlier instars, closely related species, noteworthy behaviors, and other intriguing aspects of caterpillar biology. Many caterpillars are illustrated here for the first time. Dozens of new foodplant records are presented and erroneous records are corrected. The book provides considerable information on the distribution, biology, and taxonomy of caterpillars beyond that available in other popular works on Eastern butterflies and moths. The introductory chapter covers caterpillar structure, life cycles, rearing, natural enemies, photography, and conservation. The section titled "Caterpillar Projects" will be of special interest to educators. Given the dearth of accessible guides on the identification and natural history of caterpillars, *Caterpillars of Eastern North America* is a must for entomologists and museum curators, forest managers, conservation biologists and others who seek a compact, easy-to-use guide to the caterpillars of this vast region. A compact guide to nearly 700 caterpillars east of the Mississippi, from forest pests to garden guests and economically important species 1,200 color photos and 24 line drawings enable easy identification Full-page species accounts with image of adult insect for almost 400 species, plus succinct text on distribution and other vital information Many caterpillars illustrated here for the first time Current information on distribution, biology, and taxonomy not found in other popular works A section geared toward educators, "Caterpillar Projects" An indispensable resource for all who seek an easy-to-use guide to the caterpillars of this vast region

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Customer Reviews

"A lusciously photographed book generally regarded as the most comprehensive field guide ever to caterpillars, as opposed to their better-documented adult forms--moths and butterflies. . . . In the book, the fruit of a decade's research, Dr. Wagner . . . argues passionately that creeping things can be every bit as mesmerizing and transporting as those that flit and dart in the air."--Andy Newman, New York Times

"This is a wonderful field guide for those interested in studying the fascinating world of caterpillars in the backyard, parks, woods and fields around us."--Robert E. Hoopes, Wildlife Activist

"David Wagner has produced a user-friendly field guide that goes well beyond anything else available."--The Quarterly Review of Biology

"As a teacher of the university courses in insect biology and classification, I will use this book heavily; yet it is attractive and simply written enough to be much more widely appealing for children, teachers, and indeed anyone with interest in natural history. David Wagner is to be congratulated for communicating his knowledge of the Lepidoptera so clearly and appealingly to the rest of us."--J.B. Whitfield, Annals of the Entomological Society of America

"In general, the images of caterpillars and adults in this book are superb, the layout is attractive and easy to use, and the small-size format allows it to slip easily into a backpack for use in the field. I strongly recommend this book to anyone interested in Lepidoptera, but it should also find a place on the bookshelf of anyone interested in natural history, plant-insect interactions, or management of Lepidoptera pests (macros, anyway). It also will be very handy for anyone with inquisitive children (of any age) that pose that frequently asked question--What will it turn into?"--John W. Brown, Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington

"This is a fine, easy-to-use book that is sure to be in the hands of everyone interested in exploring their own gardens or nearby vacant lots, written to be understood by middle-school students as well as professionals. Very highly recommended!"--Biology Digest

"This book adds to our understanding of caterpillars by providing a means to identify common caterpillars via excellent photos of early stages that are associated with photos of adults, and through snippets of natural history text for each species. This alone will generate enthusiasm for caterpillars among professional biologists and general readers interested in lepidoptera."--Philip J. DeVries, Department of Biological Sciences, University of New Orleans, author of *The Butterflies of Costa Rica and Their Natural History*, Volumes I and II "This book is an important contribution to the existing knowledge on the lepidoptera of North America, one that should spawn the gathering of new information. It fills a glaring gap in the popular literature on the continent's fauna."--Steven M. Roble, Staff Zoologist, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I think this is a great book with pictures of the caterpillars as well as their adult forms. There is only two way that this book could be improved. 1. including range maps instead of just indicting general locations in text. I think maps are easier to use at a glance. 2. Some kind of key to in the front to distinguishing the different families would be amazing. That way I would when looking at a caterpillar that I am not at all familiar with I could key it out to a family or 2 instead of randomly paging through the book.

I bought this because we found a caterpillar at a picnic and after half an hour of internet image searching, still didn't know what it was. I have a real weakness for reference books, and while ponying up \$23 for a caterpillar guide was a sort of facepalm moment, I have no regrets. I found the picnic caterpillar within five minutes. The color photos are great and the accompanying information is interesting and useful. Also, I like that it's specific to the northeast - I've spent too much time looking for a thing I've spied and finally think I've got it, only to discover that it lives in California.

We bought a butterfly kit from Toys R Us, and hatched out some Painted Lady butterflies from mail order caterpillars. We decided to take it a step further, and hatch out some that we found. The biggest challenge was finding out what they ate. So we bought this book. It has been perfect for our purposes. We have hatched out a cabbage worm, which is a pest, but is also an abundant specimen for a first try. This past week, we hatched out our first Monarch Butterfly. We have supplemented by Googling for information online, and another butterfly identification book that is very specific to butterflies. I would suggest adding an easier butterfly component to this book, but it is already pretty thick and comprehensive for caterpillars. It would be too big, and cease to be a field

guide. We used a butterfly book to figure out that many of the swallowtails around us are Spice Wood Swallowtails. This book told us that the caterpillars look like bird poop for the first three molts. I probably would have continued to pass up what I thought was bird poop on leaves. Now we can hatch some swallowtails!

I bought this book because it had many 5 star reviews. I should have read into the reviews a little deeper. Based on its title, I expected the book to be arranged by caterpillar identification, color, hairy, time of year, etc. Instead, its arranged by moth and butterfly classifications. Unless you have a decent knowledge of moths and butterflies, you basically have to thumb through the whole book to find what you're looking for.

Can't wait for summer so we can start to use this fabulous guide in our garden! Wonderfully detailed; photographs make it so much easier to differentiate between the various caterpillars!

With an ever increasing interest in butterflies I recently purchased an excellent book that had outstanding photos of butterflies.....but not of the caterpillars that produced the butterflies. This was a huge disappointment because very often you find the caterpillar but have no idea what it will grow up to be. Caterpillars of Eastern North America completes "the story". In addition to excellent close up photos of each species, the book supplies comprehensive information about the identification, foodplants, and occurrences in an easy to read format. Closing the circle, they provide a photo of the adult butterfly or moth. This is a must have for anyone interested in the life cycle of these beautiful creatures.

Not too long ago in human history, people thought that caterpillars and butterflies were two entirely different critters. This book illustrates beautifully how different the pupal stage of the butterfly is from the adult! So many of us can identify a Monarch caterpillar, but how about a swallowtail or a sulphur? And, yeah, you know what a Gypsy Moth caterpillar looks like, and maybe even a Wooly Bear, but what do they TURN INTO? The pictures in this book will tell you! I'll say that this book isn't for the rank beginner, they'd probably do better with "Caterpillars in the Field and Garden : A Field Guide to the Butterfly Caterpillars of North America". And neither is it a definitive guide to all the caterpillars (that book has yet to be written). But it fits the niche right in-between. The pictures of the caterpillars are great; true to life and color, although the adult pictures are small, taken from pinned, collected adults, which makes for sometimes faded specimens and could never be used as a field

guide as most of the moths never fan their wings. Moths are the primary reason to buy this book. If you've ever found a caterpillar in your garden and just don't know what it is, it's just as likely (if not sometimes more so) to be a moth as a butterfly. The beginner books don't include many moths, despite the fact that moth caterpillars can be just as colorful, and large! The author gives a summary on each page of the more common species, what they look like, whether instars are different from stage to stage, range maps, and most importantly: WHAT THEY EAT. I'm not talking about whether you have to worry about finding these guys on your tomatoes, or in your cereal cabinet. Caterpillar species specialize on a certain type of food plant or plants. Sometimes the ONLY way to tell two species apart is to see what the caterpillar eats. The tips in this book will help you on your way to raise caterpillars at home, find eggs on plants, even identify some common diseases and parasites. Aspiring lepidopterists will find this book useful to move from novices to informed backyard naturalists.

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