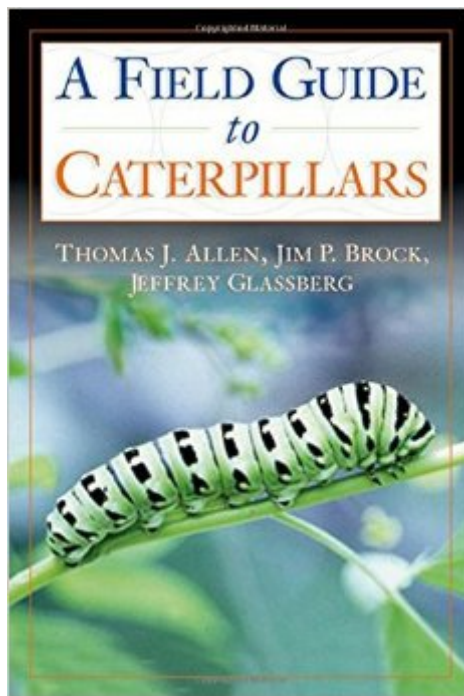


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Caterpillars In The Field And Garden: A Field Guide To The Butterfly Caterpillars Of North America (Butterflies Through Binoculars)



Synopsis

Jeffrey Glassberg's acclaimed Butterflies through Binoculars guides have revolutionized the way we view butterflies. Now there's a field guide in the same practical format, and with the same emphasis on conservation, to identify caterpillars. Caterpillars are as varied, fascinating, and often as colorful as the adult butterflies they become. This is the most comprehensive guide to these creatures available. It contains all the information necessary to find and identify the caterpillars of North America--from Two-tailed Swallowtails, some of the largest butterfly caterpillars at just over two inches when fully grown, to tiny Western Pygmy-Blues. Caterpillar seekers will learn how to distinguish between butterfly caterpillars and moth caterpillars, where and how to find caterpillars, and the visual differences between young and older caterpillars. Each species section describes how to identify the caterpillar, complete with brilliant photos--many published here for the first time. To make for easy field use, each caterpillar's key physical features, abundance, habitat, and major hostplants are listed on the same page as its photo. The book also contains a special section on butterfly gardening, offering valuable information on how to set up a butterfly garden and raise healthy butterfly caterpillars, and provides a thorough list of the plants butterflies most like to feast on. From the concerned gardener who wishes not to kill caterpillars that may one day become beautiful butterflies to the serious butterflyer wishing to take the hobby to the next level, this remarkable guide will provide all of the information necessary for an enriching caterpillar experience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For a couple years now, I've been trying to learn all I can about butterflies. It all started in 2002 when I made it through a lazy, long summer day by playing hopscotch. While hopping around the cracked sidewalk, I saw a sadddle-back moth caterpillar! Then this year, I saw a Monarch butterfly breaking out of the sac its caterpillar had made on one of the arms of the front porch family glider. So I was really ready for CATERPILLARS IN THE FIELD AND GARDEN. Authors Thomas J Allen, Jim P Brock and Jeffrey Glassberg know what they're talking about. They've studied, looked long and hard at, and lived with caterpillars and butterflies for years. They've also put all that book learning and field work into a clearly written, well organized guide with many helpful pictures. Their book gives the English and scientific names, identification, host plant, habitat and garden tips for each of over 500 butterfly caterpillars. It also has good photos of each caterpillar and butterfly. But the authors warn that the pictures are of caterpillars when they're that close to making the sac from which butterflies break away. Based on the very few examples found so far, young caterpillars don't look that much like their older forms. A female butterfly can lay as many as 100-300 eggs. But only about 1-2 will make it through life to become a butterfly. Too many will be killed by bacterial, fungal or viral diseases; or parasite flies and wasps; or people; or pesticides. Many of us now see the need to reduce pesticide and hazardous material use. With this book, we'll know butterfly caterpillars when we see them. So we'll know better than to spray and swat them.

Spring is about to arrive here in the Ozarks and I have been busy in finding, sorting out and taking an inventory of the various (and alas, many) field guides I have collected over the years. These guides include everything from freshwater mussels to insects, birds, trees, plants, reptiles, amphibians, flowers, butterflies, spiders and on and on and on. The guide being reviewed here of course focuses on butterfly caterpillars on North America, but please note that traditionally, with almost all field guides, the term "North America" usually includes the area north of Mexico. To include our southern neighbor would take volumes and volumes. Those interested in critters and plants south of us should seek out field guides specific for that country or area. Caterpillars in the field and Garden, the guide being reviewed here is a very nice tool. The potential buyer or reader must keep in mind though that world wide there are well over 20,000 butterflies and the number jumps to something like 125,000 species when moths are included. In the lower 48 states we have about 575 butterflies identified so far and about 12,000 moths. (Note that I am a bit vague as to numbers here as it depends on what reference you use as how many species of these critters exist and there are new species being "discovered" each year both world wide and in this country. Simply

put...not one know for sure just how many there are. Remember this when evaluating any field guide on the subject.Anyway....This is a visually delightful book filled with 900 photographs of caterpillars. The authors have given a very good example of all the major groups, excellent range maps and a good physical description.

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