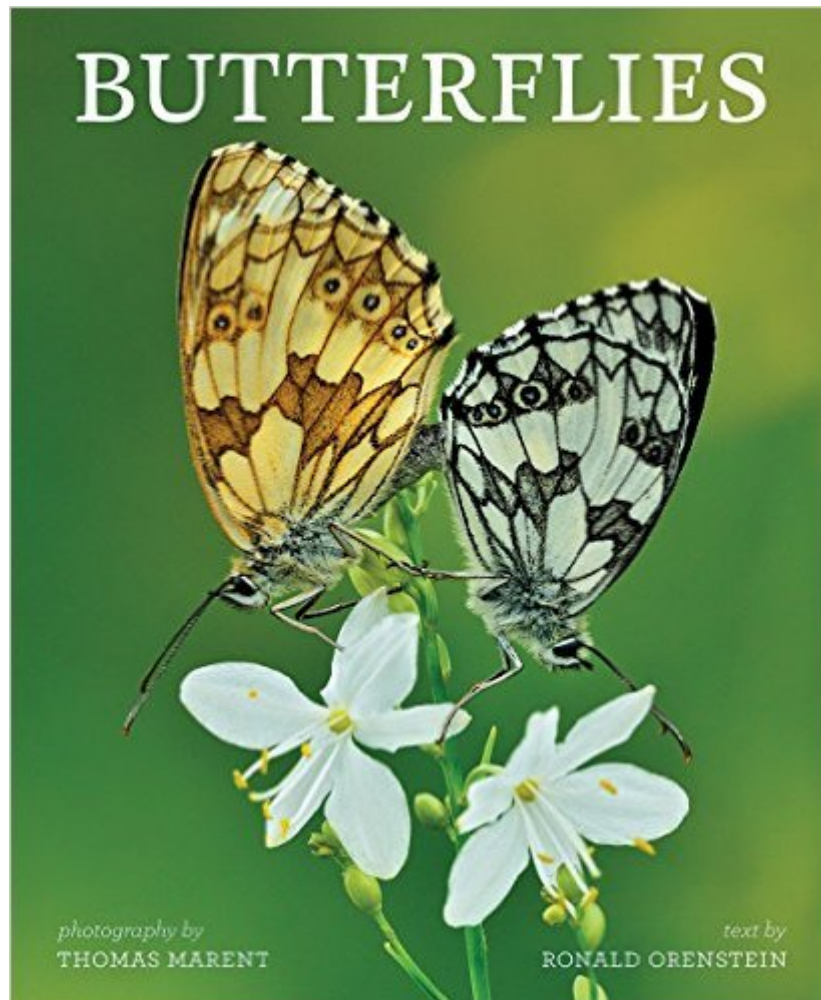


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# Butterflies



## Synopsis

Here are some of the most colorful, spectacular and sometimes weird examples of the world's butterflies and moths. From the common swallowtail to the iridescent blue morpho, Thomas Marent's stunning photographs provide a close-up view of the remarkable family of insects known as Lepidoptera. The macro photography complements the enlightening text written by zoologist Ronald Orenstein, who explains the scientific curiosities of these amazing insects. He makes clear how to differentiate between butterflies and moths; how caterpillars camouflage themselves; and how their feeding strategies and evolutionary adaptations help them prevail in the wild. Examples include such seldom-seen species as the green dragontail (Indonesia), Mexican kite-swallowtail (Costa Rica), the alpine black swallowtail (China) and European sulphurs. Among the many anatomical characteristics profiled are the purpose and differences between butterfly and moth antennae (smell, communication and feel); how some butterflies are amazing mimics, appearing to the untrained eye as nectar-feeding hummingbirds; and how the patterns on their wings, depending on the species, may be spots that make the insects look like larger critters to their predators. Butterflies has seven sections which provide comprehensive coverage of Lepidoptera. They are: 1. Introduction to Butterflies includes What are butterflies?; Color Patterns; Courtship; Migration; and Climate Change 2. Butterfly Diversity includes Swallowtails; Skippers; Whites, Sulphurs and Yellows; Milkweed Butterflies; Fritillaries; Emperors; Gossamer-winged Butterflies; Metalmarks and more 3. Butterfly Wings covers Flight; Color; Tails and Ornaments; Eyespots and more 4. Butterfly Life History covers Mating; Eggs; Caterpillars; Metamorphosis and more 5. What Butterflies Eat includes Feeding Apparatus; Flowers; Rotting Fruit; Drinking; Puddling and more 6. Butterflies in their Environment covers Predators; Camouflage; Mimicry; Overwintering and more 7. Myriads of Moths includes Day-Flying Moths; Silks; Giants; Mimicry; Wing Pattern; Defense and more. Butterflies brings to abundant life the unfathomable beauty and variety of butterflies and moths.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is full of magnificent images of butterflies and caterpillars in color, and the text is scholarly and very educational for both school children and also adults. The photographs offer a close-up view of these remarkable creatures adored for their beauty and variety. The authors explain the latest scientific discoveries on a variety of topics that include the impact of the global warming on their population; widespread use of insecticides and pesticides on butterfly and caterpillar habitat; annual migration; the evolution of beautiful patterns of butterfly wings; why male and not female suck mineral from the soil; biological features that help them navigate across continents; and how to care for the butterfly population around the globe. While stressing the biological importance, we also learn some fascinating features about them; they have eyes that can look in all directions; taste with their feet, and can migrate as much as 3,000 miles every year. This book is discussed in several chapters and one chapter is devoted each of the six families of butterflies; the swallowtails, skippers, whites and yellows, metal-marks, brush-footed butterflies, and gossamer-winged butterflies. Other chapters deal with anatomy and biology of butterfly wings, their life history, their food, the habitats of butterflies, and the ecology of moths. The book is not technical but is written for all readers interested in the biology and ecology of butterflies.

I took a couple of pics so that you could see the table of contents and the size and look of the book. First time I did that for so I hope they upload okay. As others have said, this is a gorgeous coffee table book. It has extremely detailed photographs, interesting text to go with the photos, and is an all around interesting read for anyone wanting to browse a book about butterflies. Although it is organized by type, this is still not a very good reference for those trying to ID butterflies in their yard. This is a good book to have around for kids, because I've noticed that when left to their own devices, they tend to gravitate toward non-fiction with big pictures. The pictures interest them when they're younger, and then they will read more about the topic in the text when they get older. This also makes an excellent gift for anyone who is into gardening, flowers, or butterflies.

This coffee table style book is a gorgeous volume filled with beautiful full-color photography and

text. While primarily aimed at those with an interest in nature and science, this is also a resource that can be enjoyed by anyone, from nature expert to novice. The book begins with a general introduction to butterflies as a species, with further chapters going into more detail on individual butterfly families and their life cycles. Covered are topics such as life history; wing shape, color, and patterns; what butterflies eat; butterfly environments; and effects of climate change to name a few. The text is informative and interesting, but what really shines are the accompanying photos on each page. The text is white on black glossy paper, enhancing the presentation of the photos. This is as much a photography book as a text on butterflies. I am familiar with only the common butterflies such as Swallowtails, Monarchs, and Skippers, and found the wealth of detail presented fascinating. The format used makes it easy to absorb new information. Many of us are visual learners; I know I am. Seeing the photo along with the text reinforces the information I have just read. Butterfiles is a treasure trove of information and a handy reference guide to be consulted again and again.

This book is such a lovely collection of photos. There is a lot of educational info about butterflies: about their metamorphosis cycle, the differences between them and moths, and more. The book includes butterflies from many parts of the world, though I wish they had even more areas. There was really only one butterfly from China and I am sure there were other areas of the world with unique butterflies that weren't included at all. Also it would have been nice to be able to use the index to find butterflies by country and that too wasn't available. The photographs were truly amazing, with large, sharp, close up photos of hundreds of butterflies. Latin names, locations, and information about them made this book a joy to read and even just look at the pictures.

This is a beautiful coffee table book for the nature enthusiast or gardener - especially those of us who like to see and even attract those flying flowers to our gardens. Although it is organized into different sections based on families of butterflies (swallowtails, skippers, whites and yellows, etc.), it is not an encyclopedia or even a giant field guide of the different types you might find in your backyard or on a hike. There does seem to be an emphasis on North American varieties but it covers a wide range and seems to be focusing more on being \*interesting\* than comprehensive. Still, the photos are excellent and will delight younger readers, while the text is more advanced and deals with things such as life cycles, habitats, food, and wing composition.

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