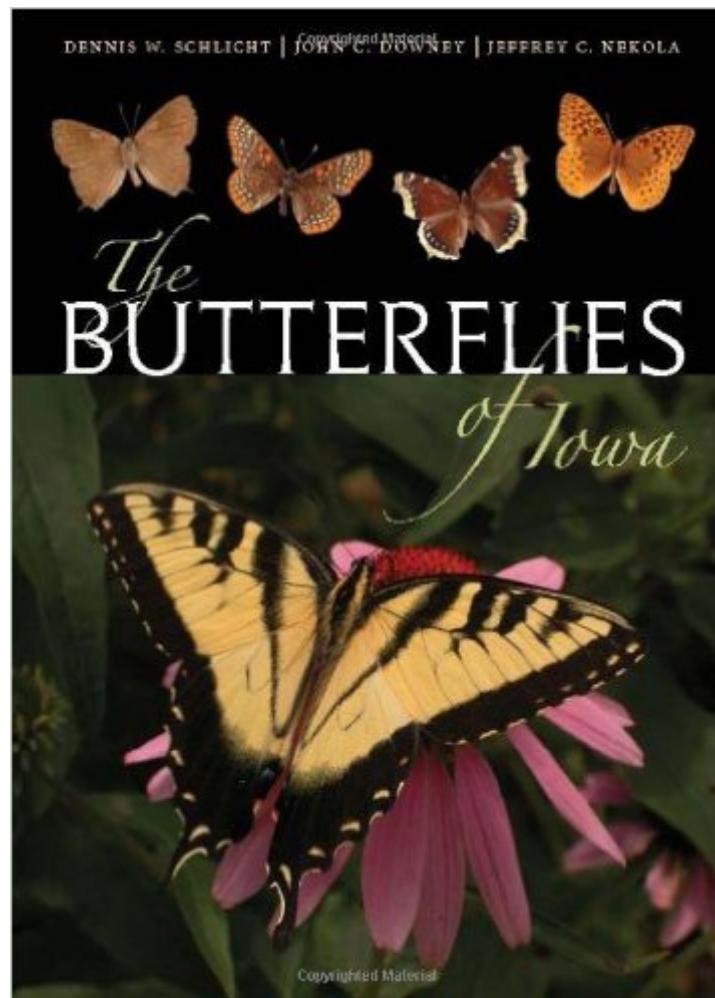


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The Butterflies Of Iowa (Bur Oak Book)



Synopsis

This beautiful and comprehensive guide, many years in the making, is a manual for identifying the butterflies of Iowa as well as 90 percent of the butterflies in the Plains states. It begins by providing information on the natural communities of Iowa, paying special attention to butterfly habitat and distribution. Next come chapters on the history of lepidopteran research in Iowa and on creating butterfly gardens, followed by an intriguing series of questions and issues relevant to the study of butterflies in the state. The second part contains accounts, organized by family, for the 118 species known to occur in Iowa. Each account includes the common and scientific names for each species, its Opler and Warren number, its status in Iowa, adult flight times and number of broods per season, distinguishing features, distribution and habitat, and natural history information such as behavior and food plant preferences. As a special feature of each account, the authors have included questions that illuminate the research and conservation challenges for each species. Species, include color photographs of all the adult forms that occur in Iowa. Male and female as well as top and bottom views are shown for most species. The distribution maps indicate in which of Iowa's ninety-nine counties specimens have been collected; flight times for each species are shown by marking the date of collection for each verified specimen on a yearly calendar. The book ends with a checklist, collection information specific to the photographs, a glossary, references, and an index. The authors' meticulous attention to detail, stimulating questions for students and researchers, concern for habitat preservation, and joyful appreciation of the natural world make it a valuable and inspiring volume.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Basics: 2007, softcover, 233 pages, 118 species, 392 color photos, distribution maps, seasonal flight bar-charts This book covers all butterflies known from Iowa. Each is shown by color photographs that are of good quality and size. Both the dorsal and ventral views are shown. Unless there are insignificant differences between the sexes, both the male and female are illustrated with both dorsal/ventral photos. Some of the species (e.g., sulphurs) are shown with six photos when notable variations exist. Each butterfly is covered with about one-half page of text. This includes status, seasonal flight dates, and a quick mention of the distribution and habitat. A paragraph is dedicated to the distinguishing features of the butterfly. This is written clearly with good details. Many of the descriptions include brief notes on differences from a similar species. A unique inclusion is a "Questions" section that concludes the text for each butterfly. These questions address holes in the knowledge for each species. Hopefully, these will spur butterfly enthusiasts to fill in the gaps of natural history information. Examples include "What are the larval hosts?", "Why is it absent from seemingly appropriate fen and wet prairie sites in ne Iowa?", and "How do populations synchronize the flights of individual adults?". The Iowa distribution map for each butterfly includes a dot within each county to represent the butterfly's presence. Adjacent to each map is a seasonal flight chart. This is a great book. I really like its format with the photos, maps, and text. The only minor critique I'd offer is to use the page number instead of the Opler/Warren number to match the photo with the text.

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