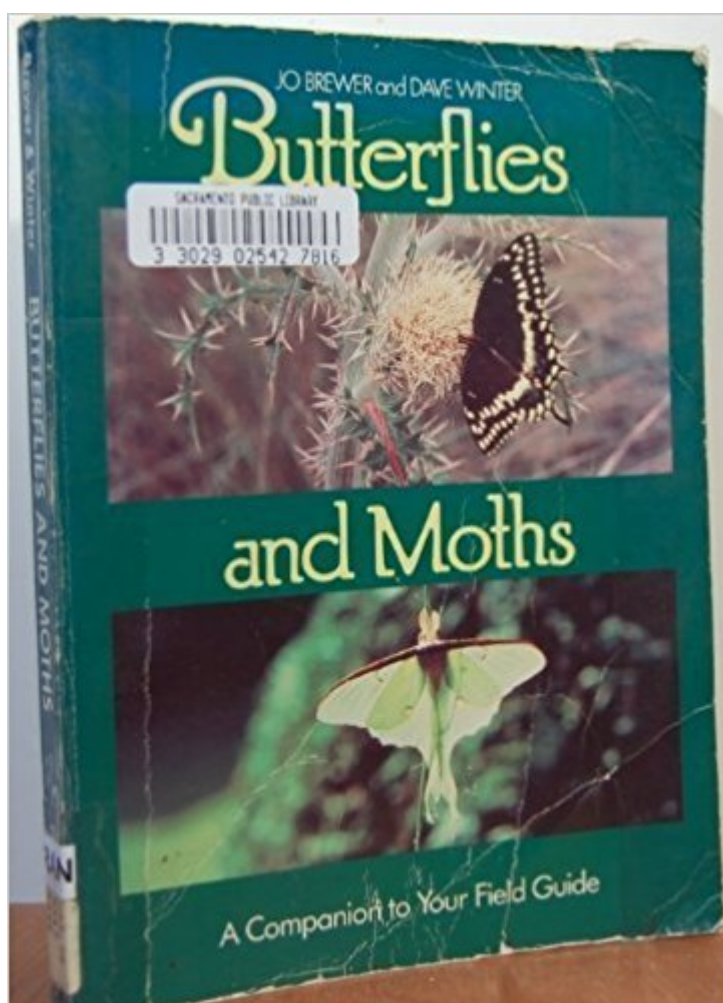


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Butterflies And Moths: A Companion To Your Field Guide (Phalarope Books)



Book Information

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04/06/2015Book Review: *Butterflies and Moths* By Yichao Wang, Biology

Department, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

(2015)_____Th

is book is written and photographed by Jo Brewer and Dave Winter in 1986, with drawings by Channing Thieme. It is the first edition and published by Prentice Hall Press, New York, NY. This book's purpose is to help the interested readers understand the nature of order of Lepidoptera. It is a companion of readers' field guide. *Lepidoptera* refers to wings covered with scales. Butterflies and moths are the only insects that wings clothed with scales. The word of *Lepidoptera* was first classified by the famous Sweden naturalist who is Linnaeus. This book tells us many information about butterfly and moth, such as their species numbers, families, morphology, biogeography, taxonomy, growth and development, reproduction, life time, behaviors, feeding, what kind of habit they need, how they communicate with each other, what predators they encounter, strategies of predator avoidance, what roles they have in the ecosystem, what problem they cause, and so on. The most reliable way to tell butterflies apart from moths is to look at their antennae. The moths' antennae are either hair-like, saw-toothed, or plumed; the butterflies' antennae are smooth, with knobs at the ends (Page 3). There are many fascinating facts in this book. The species of

moths are more than butterflies. This book describes that moths have 13 families and butterflies have 8 families. It is not true that if you touch a butterfly's wing and the powder rubs off that the butterfly will not be able to fly. The powder is actually tiny scales and a butterfly sheds these scales throughout its lifetime. Butterflies and moths are holometabolous meaning that they undergo a complete metamorphosis from egg to caterpillar and from chrysalis to adult. Butterflies are essentially just a very specialized group of day-flying moths, and they make up only a tiny part of the Lepidoptera. However, this book still has some imperfect parts. For example, it does not discuss their phylogeny; it shortly mentions their biogeography, without detailed description for locations of more species families. It also refers to mating behaviors and reproduction, without describing specific species family. Those depictions are too broad. Some of them should have diversities. To our current knowledge, we know that different species of butterflies or moths would have different mating patterns. Some female butterflies or moths would avoid sexual harassments by closing their wings. Sincerely, I appreciate that this book's author can provide us with lots of valuable information about insect science. With the help of this book, readers would be better to research insect's biological fields.

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