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BOOK REVIEW

THE LIFE HISTORIES OF THE BUTTERFLIES IN JAPAN, Volume II and III (1984), by H. Fukuda, E. Hama, T. Kuzuya, A. Takahahi, M. Takashi, B. Tanaka, M. Tanaka, M. Wakabayashi, and Y. Watanabe, Hoikusha Pub. Co. Ltd., Osaka, 540 Japan.

These books are part of a series describing the life histories of Japanese butterflies. Volume II is devoted to the Nymphalidae and Libytheidae and Volume III to the Lycaenidae. Both books are published in Japanese with English summaries.

The books begin with a series of excellent color plates showing the adult, egg, larva, pupa, host plant and often the habitat for each butterfly species covered in the book.

The text describes the distribution, habitat, food plants, flight period, and early stages of each species found in Japan, including common migrants. Next comes the English summary of the text which covers the same material in less detail. The text is referenced to the plates by the name of the butterfly and plate number.

There are distribution maps and an index to generic and specific names, both in English. The Table of Contents is in English and Japanese and gives the plate number and text location for each butterfly.

These books are well bound and have two cloth bookmarks attached to the spine. The front covers have an excellent color photograph of a native butterfly. Volume II costs 4500 yen and Volume III 5000 yen.

I found the English summaries sparse, and it was obvious that more data are contained in the Japanese text. However, each summary contained a complete capsule of information about the butterfly. The pictures are excellent and show the butterflies in their habitats and on their food plant.

These books are obviously aimed at a Japanese reading audience. However, the English summaries and plates make them a welcome addition to the library of any butterfly collector.

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