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## BOOK REVIEW

BUTTERFLIES EAST OF THE GREAT PLAINS, by Paul A. Opler and George O. Krizek. 1984. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 701 West 40th Street, Suite 278, Baltimore, Maryland 21211. Pp. 17 + 294. Price: \$49.50 + shipping.

The book gives comprehensive accounts of the butterflies of the thirty-one states east of the Great Plains. Detailed descriptions of more than 250 species are clearly and succinctly presented. The illustrative material, including detailed maps and 324 spectacular color photographs obtained in the field, add much to the species accounts. Some readers will no doubt complain that the 54 colored plates are set off in the central part of the book and not included with the species descriptions, but the very beauty of the photos as well as their taxonomic utility is best served by having them together.

In the species accounts, the authors present the etymological derivation of the scientific name and a synopsis of the species, stating any noteworthy trait. A lengthier discussion and description of the butterfly follows, which includes its distinguishing characteristics, geographic variation, and various meaningful attributes including statistical measurements of both sexes. Both descriptive and map forms are used to present the overall range. Where applicable, they indicate temporary expansion of range beyond where the species is normally resident. A surprising number of species are indicated whose temporary northern extension of range is cut back by the severity of winter. The extensive review of county records contributed by more than one hundred lepidopterists helps make the data on distribution and habitat one of the most valuable contributions of the book. Habitat descriptions are provided for each species including specific vegetation, plant formations, and even associated soil types.

The format for the species accounts also includes sections on life history and food sources, involving adult nectaring data as well as caterpillar host plants, and it is in these details that Opler and Krizek shine. The sections are full of data and challenging observations which ought to provoke much more interest and enthusiasm among readers in adding to natural history observations.

A lucidly written 33-page introduction contains a series of short essays on smaller topics reflecting the interests of field naturalists. Here the authors discuss such things as patterns of diversity, seasonality, and distribution. These sections should also whet the intellectual appetite and leave readers anxious to learn more.

I find this book very revealing and exciting and feel it will be a valuable addition to the library of every lepidopterist, including those of "professional" as well as "amateur" standing. Part of its beauty lies in the obvious knowledge of field natural history possessed by the authors. It is well done! I hope they will favor us with another volume or two on the natural history of butterflies.

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