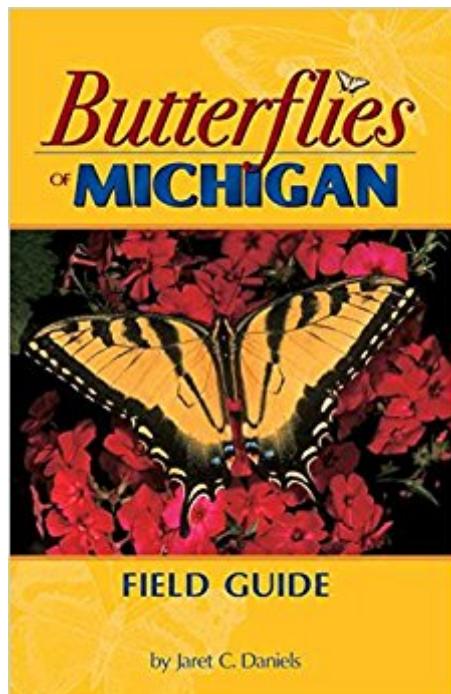


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# Butterflies Of Michigan Field Guide (Butterfly Identification Guides)



## Synopsis

Butterfly identification is now simple for everyone! This handy field guide focuses on 147 species of Michigan butterflies, arranged by color. See a blue butterfly? Turn to the blue section. Perfect for backyard or field use, this book features full-color photos of each butterfly plus an illustration that points out key identification marks. You'll learn things you've always wondered about butterflies while easily identifying the ones that you see.

## Book Information

Series: Butterfly Identification Guides

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## Customer Reviews

I pretty much love everything about this book, well almost everything. I was looking forward to identifying host plants to draw the butterflies that I most wanted to see. On each page, a few of the LARVAL host plants are listed for each butterfly but the ADULT host plants are all compacted onto a couple of pages at the end of book. And nowhere does it say which plants attract which butterflies. I was really disappointed about this as I wanted to plant specific butterfly-attracting plants in the hopes of attracting some of the more vibrant, perhaps lesser-seen butterflies. But since the plants are listed without telling which butterflies they most attract, I'm back at square one as far as planting my butterfly garden. Having said that, this book is GREAT for identifying butterflies. I've taken a lot of wildlife photos over the last 3 years and have some of butterflies I hadn't identified. After I got this book I was able to check off 16 different butterflies that I've personally seen (and photographed.) Oh yeah, I forgot to mention that there's a little box next to each butterfly in the index in the back of the book to check as you go, really neat. Overall, a great buy. It's my favorite book right now. :o)

Lovely book that we have already used to identify several spring butterflies in our garden. Each entry spans two pages, and one page (for most entries) has pictures of the butterfly with open wings, closed wings, and caterpillar stage. There is a general comments paragraph with interesting information on the butterfly, history, etc. The second page lists the common name, scientific name, and has headings for Family/Subfamily, Wingspan, Above wing and Below wing descriptions, differences in Sexes, Egg and Larva identification, Larval Host Plants, Habitat, number of Broods, Abundance, and Compares similar looking butterflies. Second page also has a line drawing illustration of the butterfly with specific things to look for, a calendar of when the butterfly is active, and its range and resident status on a map of Michigan. The main entries are grouped by the color of the butterfly, but there is also a section in the front with black-and-white line drawings of the butterflies so you can look up by shape.

My girlfriend and I were sitting on my back porch one afternoon, watching a curious brown butterfly in my back yard, when she turned and asked, "Do you have a butterfly book?" I do have a shelf of nature guides, including two on insects, but nothing specific on butterflies. Her birthday was just a few weeks away and so I purchased this book to add to her gifts. Overall, she (and I) like it. The organization by color is good for amateurs like ourselves, the specifics on differentiating similar butterflies (i.e., viceroy from monarch) are helpful, and grouping the larval form with the adult is a nice bonus, as is the inclusion of host plants and seasons when the butterflies are most likely to appear. Given the small size, it's necessarily incomplete, but very handy for use on hikes. My girlfriend now keeps her copy on her back porch, along with her nature books, for quick reference. A very useful book, even if she never did find that elusive brown butterfly.

I picked this fieldguide up in the local bookstore after a quick lookover and decided to purchase it as it was selective for Michigan rather than the entire eastern North American of my other butterfly field guide. This book is easy to take in the field. Its dimensions are a portable 4 and 1/4 by 7 inches and compact despite its 376 pages. The species are organized by color which is both advantageous and a drawback in many ways. For example if you were trying to remember the difference between the Monarch and Viceroy it is easy to find them in the orange section and compare. On the other hand if you were in the field and saw a Common Checkered Skipper which is mostly black on the top of the wings with large white marks and mostly brown on the bottom of the wing (the part most often seen when they are perched on a plant) you might not look in the white color section where it is in this

book. This applies to several other species such as the Tawny Crescent, is it in the orange or yellow section of the book? Other than the problem of organizing the book by color (which although imperfect may still be better than by taxonomic order for most people) the book is quite good. I liked the format with the description of the butterfly including eggs, larva, size, host plants, abundance, similar species and a range map of its locations in the state and chronology month by month of its appearance in the field opposite the picture. The large photographs of each species are excellent and well worth the price of the book. In some instances I would have liked to have included larger images of the lower wings, females etc. than the small 3/4 thumbnails in the corner of the large image. All in all a good little book for field identification of Michigan butterflies.

Butterflies of Michigan: Field Guide is arranged by predominant color (the first thing you notice about a butterfly) then by size (the second thing you notice). Each butterfly's description has two pages, with color photo and comments on the left page and name and description on the right. A very helpful addition is the relative shape and size in silhouette behind the comments. Each butterfly also has a range map, and a diagram showing both dorsal and ventral views. For commonly confused butterflies, the author includes ways to differentiate between them. The pages are glossy and sturdy, so you could take this guide out in the field with you. I highly recommend it, whether you have only a passing interest or a real passion for butterflies. It's easy to use and packed with information.

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