

BOOK REVIEW

GLASSBERG J.: BUTTERFLIES THROUGH BINOCULARS. A FIELD GUIDE TO BUTTERFLIES IN THE BOSTON-NEW YORK-WASHINGTON REGION. Oxford University Press, New York-Oxford, 1993, 160 pp., 40 colour plates. ISBN 0-19-507982-5. Price USD 19.95.

Several excellent field guides upon North American butterflies have been published recently (e.g., a field guide by P.A. Opler, 1992). But the Glassberg's book is unique in its use of an "ornithological method" to observe butterflies in the field. The publication provides instructive photographs of butterflies in their natural poses and in the correct size relationship to other species, facilitating rapid and correct identification through binoculars. This user-friendly guide is arranged pleasantly and presents 300 beautiful colour

photographs of the butterflies of the Boston-New York-Washington region. Most of the eastern species of the US occur in this region. Notes on geographic range, flight period, seasonality and food plants are given, as is a very readable outline of the bionomics of each species. Notes on the conservation of species and their habitats are included. Glassberg's novel method of "butterfly watching" appears to be very useful for ecological and conservation projects. It is a pity that some ecological and statistical analyses (e.g., transect methods) are not described in this book, which will be very attractive to all students of field-observation of butterflies, not only in North America.

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