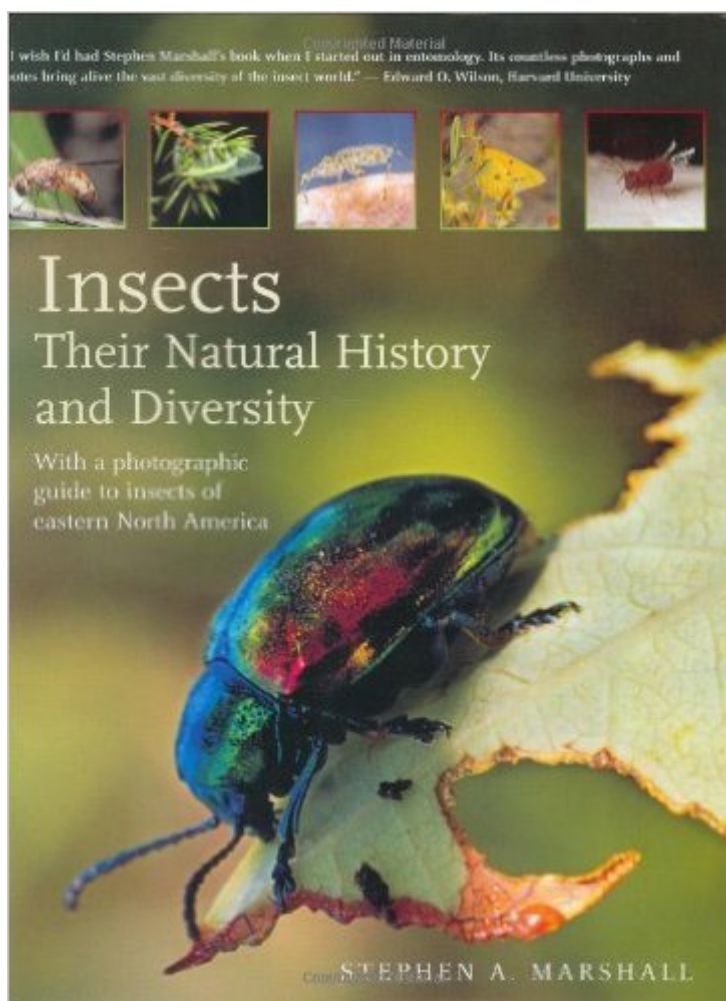


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# Insects: Their Natural History And Diversity: With A Photographic Guide To Insects Of Eastern North America



## Synopsis

Meticulously researched and illustrated with color photographs, *Insects* is a landmark reference book that is ideal for any naturalist or entomologist. To enhance exact identification of insects, the photographs in this encyclopedic reference were taken in the field -- and are not pinned specimens. *Insects* enables readers to identify most insects quickly and accurately. The more than 50 pages of picture keys lead to the appropriate chapter and specific photos to confirm identification. The keys are surprisingly comprehensive and easy for non-specialists to use. *Insects* features: Detailed chapters covering all insect orders and the insect families of eastern North America A brief examination of common families of related terrestrial arthropods 4,000 color photographs illustrating typical behaviors and key characteristics 28 picture keys for quick and accurate insect identification Three indexes -- common family names, photographs, general index Expert guidance on observing, collecting and photographing insects. Almost 80 percent of all named animal species are insects and closely related arthropods. This book is required reading for anyone interested in entomology.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

At last we receive a well-written, comprehensive, and gorgeously illustrated guide to insects of eastern North America, a book that has been badly needed for many, many years. Stephen Marshall did a splendid job of combining in a single volume information on biology and identification of most families of insects found in this region, and did it in a way that is both pleasing to the eye, and truly educational. Lavishly illustrated with literally thousands of color photos, this book is an

encyclopedia of North American insects, and a fantastic invitation to the exploration of our insect fauna. It includes overviews of all orders of insects found in N. America, and provides user-friendly flowchart keys to their identification (down to the family level) that are short on technical jargon but rich in illustrations. The book also has chapters on collecting and photographing insects and other small critters. I am sure that this volume will influence many budding naturalists, and quickly become the resource of choice for entomology teachers and students. An absolute must in the library of anybody with an interest in natural history as well as a useful reference for gardeners. I simply cannot recommend it enough.

I can only echo Piotr Naskrecki's review. When this book arrived my first thought was "Wow! This is the insect book I've been waiting for!" The illustrated flowchart keys to insect orders and families are outstanding and will be more easily used than the conventional keys in standard texts. I've been interested in insects most of my life (over 50 years) and this is the most incredible introduction to the subject I've seen. The only quibble I have is that the butterflies and moths don't have an illustrated flow chart key to their families. But don't let that keep you from getting this wonderful book.

This book came out just as we were considering a move to the east coast. Clearly it was one of our best purchases for the trip. While it is not the book you will take with you in the field, it is definitely the source you will turn to in the car or once you get home. If you have a question, it will probably have the answer. For searching or browsing, I heartily recommend it!

This book has good information for a general, overall view of various insects and it has excellent photos. It would not be useful if you need indepth info about a particular insect group. The keys are useful for identifying more common insects, although in some places the keys lump families together (if I would not have caught this, I would have misidentified some of the insects for my class).

For the amateur and layperson I can't imagine a better book! The huge number of color pictures make for easy identification of many species and a reference point to search from to identify others. The pictures are excellent, of adequate size, and plentiful. It took awhile, but I gradually got around to reading through the whole book. It is generally an excellent book to read. While many of the Latin and scientific terms were a bit beyond me, they weren't overdone and it is still an easy read for an average person. Sprinkled throughout are very interesting notes and comments about various

families and species that keeps the material from being dry. I put a 4-star rating instead of 5-star because the author is quite annoying in one respect. Apparently the book was originally written for an area in Canada and then the author figured out he could only sell 3 copies there - so it must have been expanded to include Eastern North America so it would be worthwhile to publish. It is annoying to so frequently see references to something applying to "our area" and one wonders what this provincial term means until having read far enough to discover that the author means a part of Canada - until then, one wonders if the author may be a neighbor because of frequent parochial reference to "our area". But for most people, "our area" is quite far away! Aside from the provincial references appearing far too frequently, this is a great book! A great supplement to this book, or if you're going to carry it around with you, one that is much more manageable is: National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders by Arthur V. Evans

My wife and I have a landscaping company and teach gardening. I have been looking for a complete book insects, not just the problem ones. This book has great pictures of the life cycle of the insect not just the adult or larve. Another great book is Garden Insects of North America by Whitney Cranshaw.

This Insect book is the biggest and best of any I have seen or used. The photographs are an excellent help for identification purposes. There is plenty of information about each insect. Right after I got the book, I found an unknown-to-me tiny bug. I looked at it with a magnifier and had no idea what it was. Looking at the photos in this book, I immediately found an enlarged photo of the very bug I had. It was a Lace Bug. I was so pleased to find the photos and the excellent description of its life history.

With thousands of species of insects in eastern North America, a comprehensive guide would be too heavy to lift. But Marshall's book offers the next best thing: an excellent summary of the world of insects, with stunning photographs and usable charts that outline definitive characteristics of the various insect groups found in this part of the world. Each insect group is represented by an extensive group of photographs. Each group of photographs is preceded by its own well-written introductory section. And, together, the introductory sections amount to exactly what the book's title promises: an expert's insight into the natural history of the diverse groups of insects found in eastern North America. This is not a field guide. It's the book you go to after your field guide comes up empty.

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