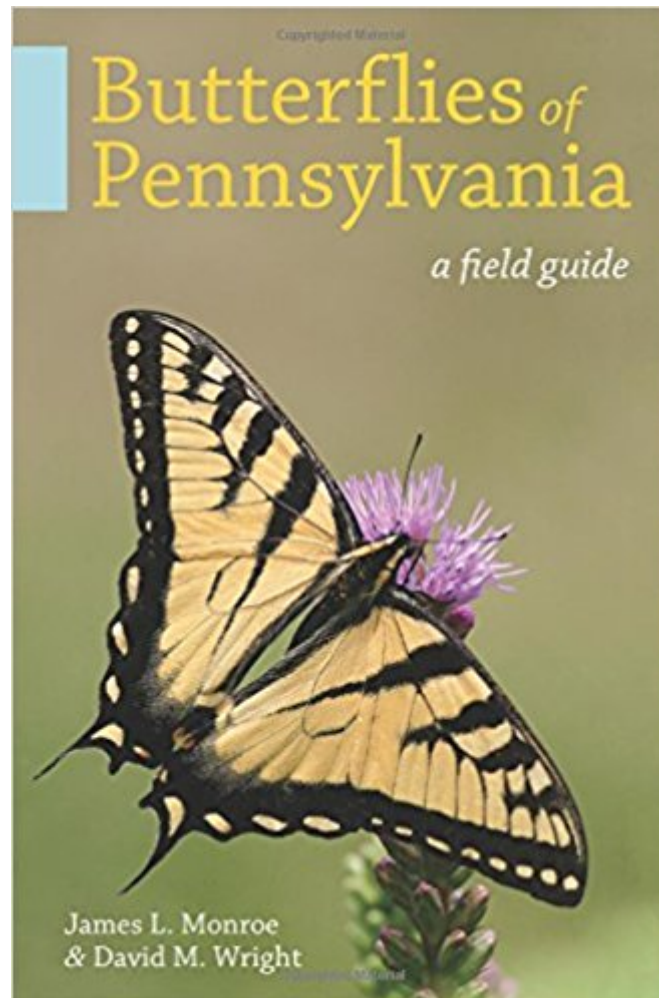




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# Butterflies Of Pennsylvania: A Field Guide



## Synopsis

How do you tell a Striped Hairstreak butterfly from a Regal Fritillary butterfly? By using *Butterflies of Pennsylvania*, the most comprehensive, user-friendly field guide to date of all of the species ever recorded within Pennsylvania's 46,056 square miles. Over 900 brilliant color photographs illustrate both the upper and under side of male and female specimens of each species, including skippers. Information on distinguishing marks, traits, wingspan, habitat, larval host plants, and handy facts offer assistance for field identification. The images depict the species in their native environments, as well as finely detailed museum-quality mounted specimens.

County-by-county maps show where each species has been recorded within the state, and graphs detail when they are present and most likely to be seen. Butterflies are arguably the most recognized, studied, and beloved of all insects. They are essential to healthy ecosystems, agricultural viability, and ultimately human and animal survival. *Butterflies of Pennsylvania* will serve as a handy reference for a broad readership including students and educators, backyard butterfly enthusiasts and gardeners, conservationists and naturalists, public and school libraries, entomologists, lepidopterists, and butterfly watchers in general. [View a sample galley version of this book](#)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

James L. Monroe is a research associate at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity in Gainesville, Florida and is professor emeritus of physics at Pennsylvania State University, Beaver.

His butterfly photographs have appeared in Nature's Best Photography, American Butterflies, Butterfly Gardener, and numerous other journals. David M. Wright is chairman of patient safety and quality council at Abington Health-Lansdale Hospital in Pennsylvania. He is an anatomical and clinical pathologist who has published extensively on the butterflies of Pennsylvania and neighboring states. His papers have appeared in American Butterflies, Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society, The Journal of Research on the Lepidoptera, and numerous other journals.

Very Good for ID.

This is an excellent book. It had very good information and was very detailed. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in butterflies..

I have many butterfly guides and this is hands-down the best book for identification of butterflies in the region.

Pre-ordered this book because I live in PA and wanted a field guide that was well-written, shows male & female drawings of each species seen in our state with both top and bottom views. This book exceeds my expectations. It is easy to use, well organized and provides information to locate and identify species. If you enjoy watching butterflies in PA, this is an excellent resource. It contains good information on description, habitat, host and nectar plants for each species, too. I highly recommend to anyone who lives in PA. It will be useful to those who live in border states, but its county maps w/ weekly sighting data based on decades of observation are most helpful to state residents or those who visit this area.

Growing up at the northwestern edge of Philadelphia, I began a lifetime engagement with butterflies and in 1966 published a little book on "Butterflies of the Delaware Valley." Regional faunistic treatments were nowhere near so common then as now. Except for brief visits, I left Philadelphia that year and I never lived in Pennsylvania again--I've been on the West Coast since 1971, in fact--but I had enough exposure to the Pennsylvania butterfly fauna that, as regional guides proliferated, I longed to see one for my old home state. And now it is here, and a fine job too, especially as regards the very difficult sibling species complexes (Spring Azures, Pearl Crescents, Tiger Swallowtails) that fascinated and bedeviled me way back then--David Wright has had a big

role in unraveling two of them. The book follows "best practice" in color-coding the county-based range maps to indicate recency of occupancy. The year 1995 was chosen as the break point. Counties where there are records since 1995 are shown in yellow. Counties with only "historic" (pre-1995) records are shaded gray. As all of my records are "historic," I paid careful attention to the status of species I had recorded in the counties I knew best, those in the southeastern corner of the state. It would appear that roughly 40% of the fauna I recorded before 1966 has not been recorded in 1 or more of those counties for over 20 years. This includes species I regarded as reliable and common. The absence of recent records is not proof of extirpation, but the fact that Wright is based in the SE corner of the state suggests those absences are not for lack of looking. A paper detailing the deteriorating regional fauna over time would be a valuable, if depressing, contribution to the literature of the so-called Sixth Extinction. Fortunately, large parts of the state are in good shape--and there are probably still surprises to be found. I learned about one historic record (the Gorgone Checkerspot, last recorded in 1906) that was entirely new to me. "Butterflies of Pennsylvania" is a thoroughly valuable addition to the regional North American butterfly literature. Bravo!

I have several butterfly books, but none even come close to this one! It's absolutely amazing. I always found it frustrating flipping through page after page of butterflies that weren't even in my area (with the other books that I have) and now I no longer have to even WONDER if any butterfly I see in this book is local. I LOVE how it shows male and female of EVERY species, PLUS it shows the top and bottom views of the butterflies (which we all know can be very different and extra difficult when trying to identify a butterfly from only one viewpoint). Another great feature of the book is the listing of host plants for the larva of each butterfly. It also had a distribution map with every county of the state and where each butterfly has been cataloged. The ONLY disappointment of this book is I wish it also had the larva pictures too, but I am very satisfied with this book and it is WELL worth the money.

I am frankly amazed by this comprehensive guide illustrating both male and female of each species with actual size photos. They are grouped by predominate color. Each page for a species also lists likely habitat and typical behavior and includes a map of PA counties showing which counties they have been reported within the past 20 years or if ever. A bar chart also shows report frequency by month. The entire book is the result of an incredible amount of research I would say. This has to be the de-facto guide for Pennsylvania butterfly watchers.

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