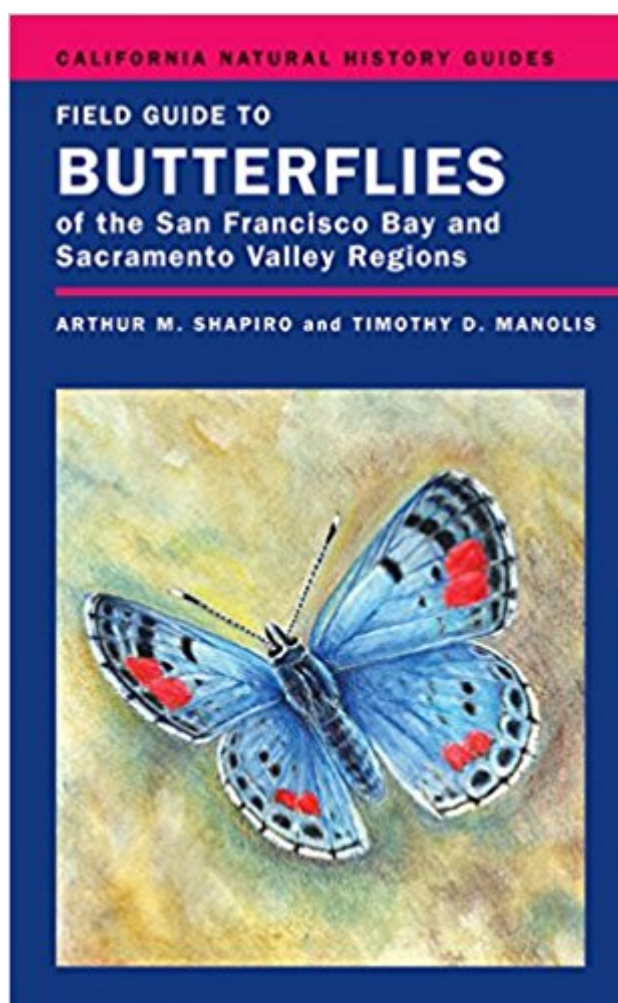


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Field Guide To Butterflies Of The San Francisco Bay And Sacramento Valley Regions (California Natural History Guides)



Synopsis

The California Tortoiseshell, West Coast Lady, Red Admiral, and Golden Oak Hairstreak are just a few of the many butterfly species found in the floristically rich San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Valley regions. This guide, written for both beginning and experienced butterfly watchers by one of the nation's best-known professional lepidopterists, provides thorough, up-to-date information on all of the butterfly species found in this diverse and accessible region. Written in lively prose, it discusses the natural history and conservation status for these butterflies and at the same time provides an integrated view of butterfly biology based on studies conducted in northern California and around the world. Compact enough for use in the field, the guide also includes tips on butterfly watching, photography, gardening, and more.* Discusses and identifies more than 130 species* Species accounts include information on identifying butterflies through behavior, markings, and host plants* Beautiful full-color plates illustrate top and bottom views of wings for easier identification* Includes a species checklist and a glossary

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Shapiro's words of butterfly wisdom will boost your chances of getting these four-winged wonders to stick around.” • (Sacramento Magazine 2008-03-01) “Essential for those who would like to identify butterflies and not make the mistake of calling every orange butterfly a monarch.” • (Placerville Mountain Democrat 2010-07-14)

"With superb illustrations and concise, up-to-the-minute synopses of butterfly biology, this book is an indispensable wonder."#151;Robert Michael Pyle, author of *Chasing Monarchs* and *The Butterflies of Cascadia*"A masterpiece on the butterflies of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Valley regions."#151;Paul A. Opler, author of *A Field Guide to Western Butterflies*"An accessible and entertaining guide to the natural history of Bay Area and Sacramento Valley butterflies."#151;Carol Boggs, Stanford University

I have my nose in this book all the time. It's really helpful & informative. We live on a few rural acres which have been planted for birds, butterflies and bees. Using this field guide, we are nearly always able to ID our butterflies, and learn about host plants for each species. The illustrated plates are beautifully done, and easily referenced to specific butterflies. At the back of the book, you can find a checklist, glossary, references, and a complete index. As an amateur naturalist, I appreciate the scientific level of this book--not overly academic, yet not too simplified. This field guide is thorough, very user friendly, and full of great information. Many thanks to Dr. Shapiro.

As a nature photographer, I bought this specifically to help me differentiate between many similar-looking species in the area, and so far it has delivered in spades! I start with the photographic plates to narrow it down, then read the adjacent (SO nice not having to flip back & forth) descriptive notes where distinguishing characteristics are noted in italics, making it very easy to home in on what's most important to identification. The plates also show male vs female and spring vs summer appearance, another helpful feature, and the adjacent brief descriptions also include brief life history notes ("enthusiastic puddlers", "mostly on serpentine soils", and so forth). In the rare case where I'm still not sure, I can easily flip to the noted page for the complete life history to compare to where & when the butterfly was found. Although I usually abhor carrying identification resources with me on hikes, the small size of this volume fits so easily into my daypack that I have started bringing it with me, to learn more about the butterflies I'm seeing out where I can instantly compare the notes with the habitat. I only gave it 4 stars because I'm not a field biologist nor a lepidopterist, so I can't judge the accuracy nor usefulness of this volume at the professional level, but for nature photographers and budding naturalists in northern California, I would consider this an essential part of your reference library.

Best known for his prolific hard science publications on butterflies, Arthur M. Shapiro helps lead an

elite branch of 21st century scientists and critical thinkers studying butterfly biology. With increasing genetic and biological sophistication they study what constitutes a species, the complex relationships between different butterfly populations, the unusual evolutionarily conserved reactions in butterfly phenotype to cooler and warmer weather, and all sorts of esoteric, peer journal debated theory in butterfly biology.....but not here. Instead, I was delighted to find a very accessible, well written, good natured and often humorous field guide, to the butterflies of the bay area, written by this scientist. The treatment of individual species is stunningly detailed, and the plates illustrating the species are just fine, and logically organized (e.g the blue copper is with similar looking blues for comparison, rather than the coppers). In addition, all sorts of useful specific information about finding butterflies, rearing larvae, butterfly gardening, and things to do with butterflies is laid out in the tightly written text. As might be expected for a veteran UC Davis thesis professor, Arthur M. Shapiro does touch on big emerging or ongoing debates in butterfly biology, but in an easy introductory way, without the traditional academic qualification of every aspect of every point proposed. These debates can be quite interesting, too. A troubling trend toward declining California butterfly numbers is examined in some detail. Overall this book is a masterpiece, which colorfully details countless discoveries in butterfly natural history. It's a real joy to read. I definitely recommend it.

I bought this book because I was curious about butterflies in Northern California and someone recommended this. I expected it to be a straightforward field guide with names of butterflies, a smattering of information, and a pretty color plate. This was so much more! It covers the natural history of butterflies in the area, describes evolution and life-cycles, looks at butterfly physiology - all while remaining accessible and readable. The author's deep knowledge is evident, but it's presented in a very usable way. It's changed how I perceive butterflies.

This is THE bible on butterflies in and of Northern California (particularly of the entire Sacramento Valley and the foothills around the valley), and it is not only superbly written, and detailed, but it is also the most informative book on butterflies (in general) that I've ever seen! There is no way, NO WAY, that I can believe that the person giving this a "one star" rating could ever have actually read this book. Or perhaps that reviewer has some kind of a grudge against the author for some reason. I've never seen such a low rating for such an exquisite, beautiful nature book. I've bought multiple copies already and I would never do that unless the book in question was world-class....I hope you trust my comments, because this book is a gem!

Fairly good images, but a little fuzzy and it also would have been nice if he could have put where he or where they are seen.

The #1 butterfly book and guide for the San Francisco and Greater Bay Area. The primary author, Dr Shapiro, is one of the leading experts in California in his field.

It was OK. I would not order it again. Lots of writing but few and very small pictures. Not what I was expecting.

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