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Insects Of The Great Lakes Region (Great Lakes Environment)



Synopsis

The insects are the world's most amazing animals and comprise over eighty-five percent of the known animal species. Insects of the Great Lakes Region is the first comprehensive guide to document the rich and diverse insect fauna of the Great Lakes region. In Insects of the Great Lakes Region, educators, insect enthusiasts, and the general public will find high-quality, well-presented, easy-to-understand information with over 250 illustrations of the insects found in yards, gardens, fields, and forests. Among the topics discussed are the geological, biological, and entomological history of the Great Lakes region, the distributional patterns of insects in the Great Lakes region, and insect classification and identification. Appendixes guide the reader to entomological organizations, entomological periodicals, public insect collections, regulations on collecting insects from public lands in the Great Lakes region, as well as rare, threatened, and endangered insects. This guide shows the amateur entomologist everything he needs to know, from where to collect milkweed bugs to how often to feed his pet tarantula. Gary Dunn is Executive Director and Editor, Young Entomologists' Society, Inc., International Headquarters, Lansing, Michigan.

Book Information

Series: Great Lakes Environment

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: University of Michigan Press/Regional (September 15, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0472095153

ISBN-13: 978-0472095155

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 6.4 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,365,721 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #97 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Field Guides > Insects & Spiders #1838 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Insects & Spiders #1942 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Biology > Entomology

Customer Reviews

Insects are the world's most amazing organisms and comprise over 85 percent of the known animal species. Insects of the Great Lakes Region is the first comprehensive guide to document the rich and diverse insect fauna in the Great Lakes region. Insects of the Great Lakes Region contains over

200 Illustrations of the insects found in yards, gardens, fields, and forests. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I have found out so much about stuff I never had interest in, and the book has me captivated. I am enjoying the read as I write this. I read for several hours last night after I should have gone to bed and can't wait to get home to learn more insect stuff (yuk! crazy!). I have not even got to the part where I initially purchased the book (bees and butterflies). That is at the end of the book. I am not skipping ahead, can't wait! So glad the weekend is close. Yes, yes, yes. I would recommend this book to anyone who goes into their backyard, who digs in the earth, who plants flowers, who moves water bugs out of their basement. Fascinating! You will learn what they NEED to survive (or die). Interesting educational tool.

While this book is semi-informative for adults, I had hoped it would have lots more color pictures with common names of various bugs, a bit more geared toward kids. Bottom line, if you are an adult, and don't mind reading a lot to pick out info, then it may be okay. However, if you want this for your kids, or just as a quick reference guide (like a bird book), this isn't the book for you.

great for my kids

I like that there are notes specific to the region. Very disappointing sketches; not at all like cover implies; just very rough black & white sketches.

It is an informative book, but not at all what I was expecting for my 9 year old grand daughter. I expected to see some color or some photos. There aren't any at all. Will keep the book, but only for reference after I find a good book for her.

The biggest flaw of this book should be mentioned right away: it has no color illustrations except on the cover. There are rather small black-and-white drawings and descriptions of an insect's range of colors, but for an interested amateur like me ninety percent of a bug's identification is its color. On the other hand, the author quickly taught me how to tell the difference between a damselfly and a dragonfly (size and the way they hold their wings at rest). I also learned that most of the moths banging against the screens at night are cutworm moths. I'm probably doing the local farmers a favor by luring them to my window. The book is stuffed with interesting facts but because of its size

(324 pages) it must necessarily go lightly over the ground for each family of insects. For instance ants (Family Formicidae) are disposed of in two pages, and I'm still without a clue as to the species of tiny red ants that seem to sneak into the house around the window frames."Insects of the Great Lakes Region" is divided into five chapters, plus glossary, appendices, bibliography, and a heavily Latin, sometimes confusing index. Antlions are listed by their English name, but not ants. Fireflies are listed as lightningbugs in the index, but as 'Firefly Beetles' in the header to the text. Chapter 1 is a 'geological and biological history of the Great Lakes Region.' Chapter 2 covers this region's entomological history, and Chapter 3, the distributional patterns of its insects. Perhaps to make up for this book's lack of color, Chapter 4 teaches the principles of insect classification. Look for distinctive shapes such as a thrip's fringed wings, or unique body appendages such as pincers. Does the insect sting you or chew holes in your clothes? Does it reach through the screen with its nasty little proboscis and try to suck your blood? Chapter 5, "Insect Fauna of the Great Lakes Region" comprises the major portion of the book. This is where the reader can browse through some fascinating natural histories. Although the tenor of this review might seem anti-insect, there are some wondrous six-legged Arthropoda in this region--even a species of mosquito that spends its larval stage in the bog pitcher, and somehow manages to avoid being digested by this unique, carnivorous plant. The appendices guide the reader to entomological organizations, periodicals, insect collections, collecting regulations, as well as indicating which insects are endangered or threatened.

I was very disappointed to find only black & white drawings of the insects.....a key part to identifying is color. I returned it for a refund.

If you want to become a serious insect student in the Great Lakes this book is a good start. It covers all the major orders of the region as well as the major families within these and gives helpful references to explore further. No glossy photos but that is more of a field guide thing, this book is for teaching how to identify families and learns insects as an entomologist and not just the "bug" you happen to find in the yard.

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