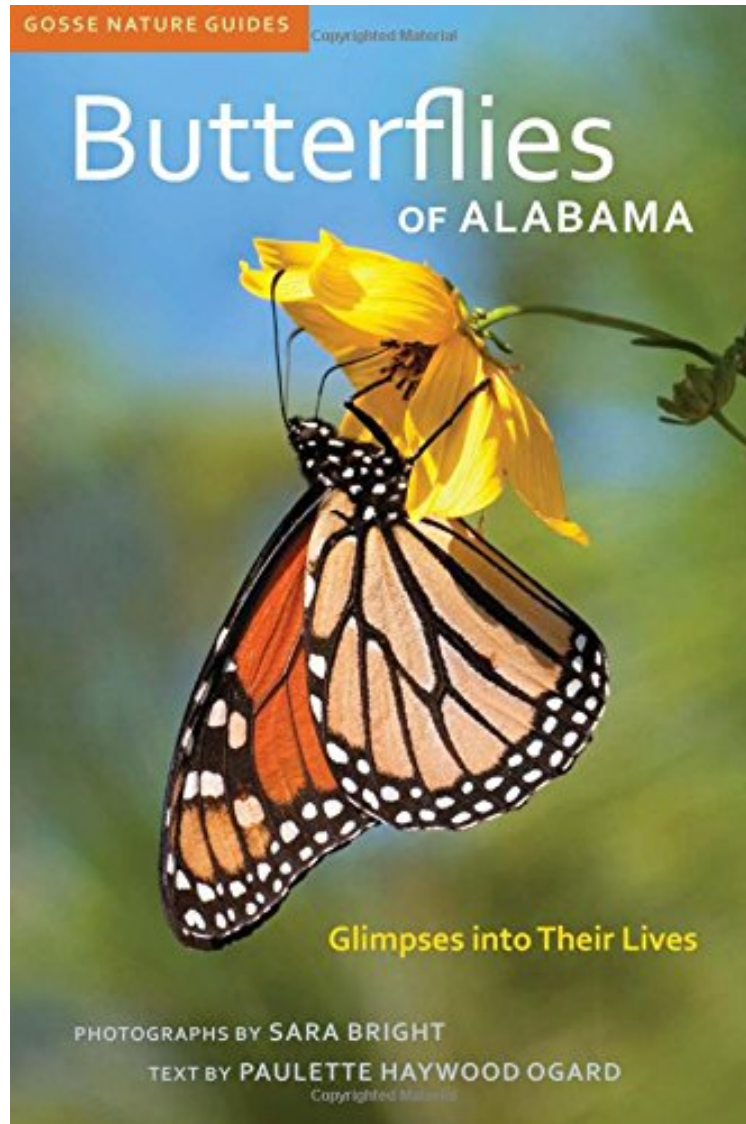


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Butterflies of Alabama: Glimpses into Their Lives (Gosse Nature Guides)

Paulette Haywood Ogard, Sara Cunningham Bright
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Paulette Haywood Ogard, Sara Cunningham Bright : Butterflies of Alabama: Glimpses into Their Lives (Gosse Nature Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Butterflies of Alabama: Glimpses into Their Lives (Gosse Nature Guides):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. An exceptional book - not just for Alabama!By Carolyn JacksonThe

sight of brightly colored butterflies fluttering among the flowers is one of life's genuine delights, but there is so much more to see and understand about these fascinating insects if you know where, when and how to look and that is the value of this book. More than three decades ago Rachel Carson wrote a small gem of a book, *The Sense of Wonder*, calling for us to nurture our childhood sense of wonder of the natural world and to introduce children to it, teaching them how to see it. However, we all need guides to see beyond the shallow glance and these guides are hard to come by. There are many nature books filled with useful facts, but rare books do exist that seem to say, "Come with me and let me show you marvelous things." This is one of them. First, browse through the beautifully printed pages and you will see an incredible collection of exquisitely crafted photographs. Sara Bright is a master of the art of capturing these elusive subjects. The quality of light, detail and composition is often breathtaking and always informative. Then - read Paulette Ogard's captivating prose as she expertly leads you through the chemical and structural strategies of butterfly survival in their different habitats and niches. Immerse yourself into the very accessible text and you become aware of a four-stage life cycle composed of particular host plants and ingenious defensive adaptations. Then, look back at the photographs and see what you missed at first glance. Did you notice that frass chain? Fortunately, the photographer is also an expert lepidopterist and captured these details. I live in Alabama and I look forward to using this exciting resource with my grandchildren to enhance our knowledge and enjoyment of nature's wondrous diversity. But don't pass up this book if you live in other regions. While it can be used for identification purposes in much of the Southeast, with the exception of earth's polar regions, butterflies cover the globe and their stories have similarities. Time invested in this book will sharpen your powers of observation of these "flying flowers" anywhere. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Butterflies of Alabama* is packed with knowledge of the four ... By Betty W. *Butterflies in Alabama* is packed with knowledge of the four stages in the life cycle of each the 84 butterflies in Alabama, not including skippers. In addition to interesting information regarding each stage of the butterfly life cycle, there are lovely photos of each stage. You'll see pictures of the caterpillar on the host plant, learn where to look for the chrysalid, learn about different butterfly colors and markings, learn which flowers each butterfly prefers for nectar, where they go in the rain, etc. This book is more than a field guide - it has much more interesting and helpful information. If you live in a Southern state you'll find the book very helpful because most of the butterflies we have in Alabama are also in the other Southern states. Don't hesitate to buy the book - it's most enjoyable and helpful. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Superb Butterfly reference By Michael W. O'Brien This book was recommended to me by Tennessee butterfly expert Rita Venable who is currently writing her own *Butterflies of Tennessee* book. This *Butterflies of Alabama* book is a joy to read, as it not only provides the usual data, including photographs, but also gives a wealth of useful information regarding host plants, salient identification features, where and how to find larvae and eggs and much more. My method for reading this superbly crafted book is to take one or two butterflies a day and read and absorb the detailed information the authors provide. This book is my favorite butterfly reference for the Southeast; even though the title says Alabama, it is more than useful for the Southeastern U.S. If one purchases this book, they will not regret it. My thanks to the authors for this "labor of love (for butterflies)".

Butterflies of Alabama is a full-color, richly illustrated guide to the 84 known species of true butterflies (Papilionoidea) found within the states borders. For more than 14 years, the authors have made a close study of these showy, winged stars of the insect world, pursuing them in a great variety of habitats, rearing them, and photographing their remarkable life cycle stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalid or cocoon), and adult. Each species account is accompanied by color photographs of live subjects in their natural habitats. Close-ups reveal fascinating details of camouflage, mimicry, coloration, and warning devices. The engaging text explains the highly evolved relationships between butterflies and the plants upon which they depend as well as the specialized adaptations that enable their survival within specific environmental niches. Included are range maps, flight times, caterpillar host plants, adult nectar sources, and identification tips: abundant information to tantalize budding as well as experienced butterfly watchers. In addition, pertinent conservation issues are addressed and appendices provide an annotated checklist of the states butterflies, a list of accidentals and strays, information on butterfly organizations, and recommended further reading. With its non-technical language, simple format, and beautiful images, *Butterflies of Alabama* is accessible and appealing to anyone who appreciates Alabama's amazing natural wealth.

"This work portrays the lives of 84 of the 130+ species of butterflies reported from Alabama. After some introductory comments and acknowledgments, the body of the book offers details of species and their families. The book also provides remarks on conservation of Lepidoptera, a list of plants, and a very useful checklist of Alabama's butterflies with notes on natural history, as well as distribution maps, details of organizations involved in butterfly and plant conservation, and a glossary. This information is useful for most of the Southeast. Ogard, who has taught courses on native flora at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, writes very well, and explains issues in language understandable to laypersons. The photographs by Bright are superb and show the butterfly's several stages of development, adult forms, and both sexes in many cases. This is an excellent book, but its coffee-table style with large

stand-alone pictures makes it too bulky for a field guide. W. Mike Howell and Vitaly Charny's *Butterflies of Alabama* (2010) is better for use in the field, while this one is better for use in more comfortable surroundings. Summing Up: Recommended. All libraries." CHOICE "Wow! [*Butterflies of Alabama*] is a treasure. I am a big fan of *Satyrium hairstreaks* and went right to that section in the book. What wonderful accounts. The whole 'byre' thing with *S.edwardsii* is really amazing and the description was fascinating. . . . This is a wonderful book [that] will stand as a high water mark for all others." --Jonathan Pelham, author of *Catalogue of the Butterflies of the United States and Canada*