



Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America

Eric R. Eaton , Kenn Kaufman , Rick Bowers , Nora Bowers

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Comprehensive yet compact, authoritative yet easy to understand, this is the perfect guide for anyone who wants to know more about the fascinating and diverse insects of North America.

Many insects are difficult even for the experts to identify, but here readers will find a wealth of information on the amazing observable behaviors of insects and their fascinating life histories. Naturalists Kenn Kaufman and Eric R. Eaton use a broad ecological approach rather than overly technical terms, making the book accessible and easy to use. Their lively and engaging text emphasizes the insects that are most likely to draw attention and also includes helpful details on a wide array of lesser-known but recognizable groups. The guide is lavishly illustrated, with more than 2,350 digitally enhanced photographs representing every major group of insects found in North America north of Mexico.

Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America Details

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From Reader Review Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America for online ebook

Natalie says

Highly recommended for anyone interested in IDing bugs that they see. It's way more user friendly than online guides because you just flip through.

Sara says

my favorite insect guide. It seems to have nearly everything I find, or a close enough relative to make ID much easier, and it emphasizes that there are many more species out there. Just enough information on each bug. love it.

Kimberlie says

This book is such a great tool to help me figure out what bug I found. Sometimes I have no clue where to start, but I can flip through the book and see it pictured! Almost every time I've used the book in this way, I've found exactly what I was looking for. Very well organized for a book that covers so many different types of insects! A MUST for any hobby entomologist or naturalist.

Dennis McDonald says

I bought this at my local birding store on Fern Street, One Good Tern, here in Alexandria VA. I figured if they only carried one insect guide it would be the one they thought best, and I was right.

I had read all the field-guide-to-insect book reviews and had come away totally confused. Everyone admits right from the start that you can't possible cover all North American insects in a single portable volume so I was expecting great selectivity in whatever I chose.

This one is very easy to use and to browse, and it's packed with useful information about insect groups. My only complaint: I've become spoiled by the quality of images on my iPhone 4S and I take and post a lot of nature photographs. The color illustrations in this book are good but lack the detail of a high-quality digital display. But overall this is a great field guide.

Anna Nesterovich says

Who told the authors it can be called a "field guide"??? Which way the redactors were looking? It's as terrible as it can possibly be. Something like "This family has 31 species, but we will only mention one name

and give you one picture. We also will not give you any clues on what the differences between the species in the family might be or where you can find it's representatives."

As a superficial review of North American insects it may work, but it is not a field guide, not in the slightest.

John says

Very good guide to the most common North American insects. However, there are so many insects that it is impossible for the guide to cover all of them, so not every insect can be identified with this book.

Paul says

I love the setup of the Kaufman field guide series so when I wanted a guide to insects to help my kids understand the bugs in our neighborhood this is the first book I sought out. I was not disappointed. Pictures are clear with good descriptions. We have loved putting names with our insect friends.

Dani says

The best insect field guide available at my local Barnes & Noble, and probably one of the better ones out there - covers enough species so that you can narrow an unknown insect down to a family, at least, and then go from there by searching online. As it is, though, it does have a lot of species represented in it, and so far I've only ID'ed maybe 3? species that weren't represented in the guide. Also, it's plenty portable (might even fit in a large pocket), unlike some of the other "field guides" I saw in the store.

Mycala says

I've been drawing insects and I prefer this sort of thing to live models. Live insects always want you to go through their agents and there's so much red tape involved. Plus when you finally do get them in the studio their behavior is erratic and sometimes they can be prima donnas. The flying ones are the worst. They can never just relax on the recliner and pose like a cat or a dog. My personal favorite selection in this book is the page entitled "weird crickets". I'm not making this up. If I were a cricket, these guys would be my friends for sure.

Desra says

This is the best and most thorough insect identifier I have used yet. Accurate pictures with more identifying power with the addition of pictures of different life stages: nymph, larva, and for butterflies/moths: even the caterpillar/cocoon is shown with it, and actual size guides. It's the only book I grab now!

Madeline says

An excellent field guide for the aspiring entomologist or insect hobbyist. Eaton is accurate and vivid in his discretions and the pictures in the guide are stunning and helpful.

Val Cuellar says

Very good book, the illustrations are very helpful.

Bob Peterson says

Most field guides to the insects are not particularly useful simply because the sheer number of species exceeds what any guide can cover. This book, though, is the exception. It is a highly useful field guide and it continually amazes me how often the insect you find in the field is also in the book. Some of my photographs are in the book, but I would feel the same about the book without this fact.

Stag Beetle says

A beautiful book about arthropods in the North America. It has from Rhaphidophoridae family(cave crickets) to the family of lucanidae(stag beetles). I've learned a lot from this book. I recommend it to anyone who is willing to dive deep into basic entomology!

Shalandra Rivera says

My first and favourite insect field guide. It's so beautiful and the picture are absolutely perfect (I don't know what the heck is wrong with these folks and their review, the photos are brilliant and the design is OH so easy to navigate, it's like breathing.

But they are true on one thing: they definitely compromise a nice design/many photographs and compactness/portability for details. Not much details at all and if there is detail, it's probably not the detail you'll want :(

BUT then again, we can just come back to the internet and google that ish up, because I mean this *is* just a field guide, so I still think it's perfect, especially as the guide for beginners to intermediates :D

Also, come on it's so recent and updated! That's unheard of in this area of study, nobody cares about entomology any more :(

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Edit:

I have since gotten and adapted to two other insect guide books: National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of NA and Peterson Field Guide to Insects and I now pretty much use only those two.

Sometimes I pull up Kaufman's because I'm accustomed to it and for more examples of the species and the beautiful pictures, but other than that I don't have much use for it anymore. I'm not going to change my star rating because it's still wonderful for what it is, but here's my new and improved opinion (similar reviews are on each book's page):

Kaufman is good for its many pictures mostly consistent in being clear and dorsal view, often differentiation between male and female, and extra white space around the images to annotate if you so wish. It has vague, encompassing descriptions of nearly every family and order, which is very, very good, but often not as detailed as I hope it to be.

Peterson is an illustrated guide (no pictures- it was first published 40+ years ago) which is perfect identifying and general information about the particular order or family. The illustrations are very pretty but are definitely perfunctory rather than ornate, so don't worry about that. Peterson is your dry-cut guide: no prose, you are given the identifying characteristics, size, origin, and perhaps habitats or habits. Helpful features: arrows on the illustration pointing to every mentioned defining characteristic, a ruler on the inside of the back cover, a couple dichotomous keys, and very pretty and clear diagrams of many things.

Wildlife Federation is my overall favourite :) It's very dense with information and pictures, a good balance. There's a big useful blurb in the introduction, summarizing each of the orders as well as general anatomical and behavioural characteristics of insects. There's also a good bit about arachnids and other arthropods. There's a healthy 1-2 page blurb about each order, but no blurb about the families! This has to be my biggest bone to pick with Federation, otherwise it would be close to perfect. I'd really like to have more general information about the habits etc of a family as a whole, but this guide does not do that even once. But yeah, otherwise this book is the most comprehensive I'm glad it has three dashes of Arachnida and a pinch each of Entognatha, Chilopoda, Diplopoda, Branchiopoda, Malacostraca; because I don't need to know that much, but being able to vaguely identify it is still loads helpful :)

But yeah, each have their own faults and mistakes as well- consult the internet and double check your sources for controversial taxonomy! I've been confused more than once.

Yup I'm still a scrub, but I'm working on it!
