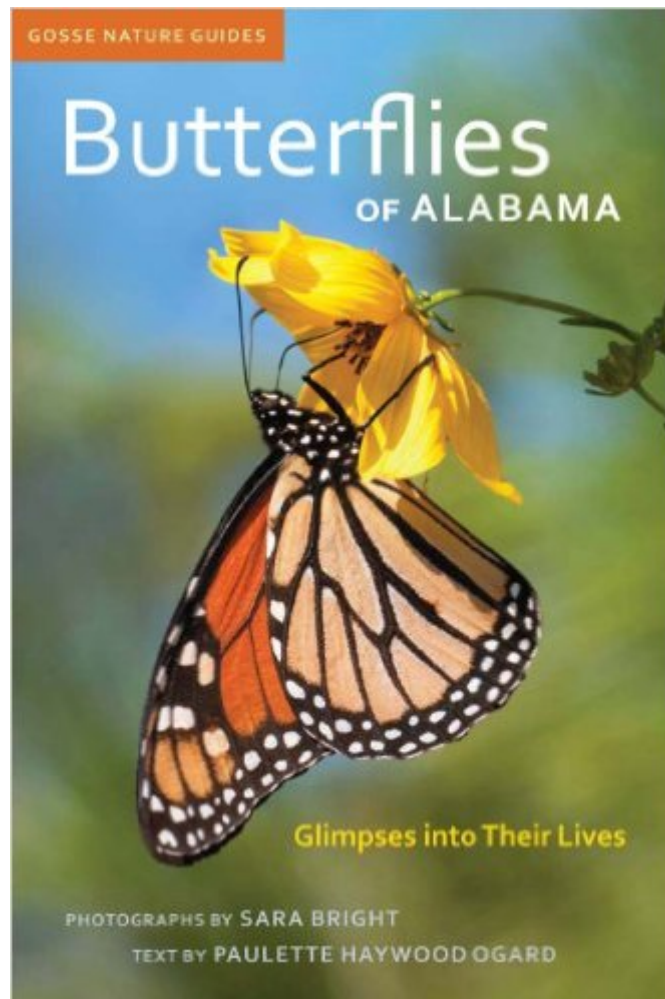


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# Butterflies Of Alabama: Glimpses Into Their Lives (Gosse Nature Guides)



## Synopsis

Butterflies of Alabama is a full-color, richly illustrated guide to the 84 known species of butterflies (Papilionoidea) found within the state's 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 state's 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. Publication is supported in part by the Citizens of the City of Selma, Alabama's Butterfly Capital.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 and up

## Customer Reviews

The 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.

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