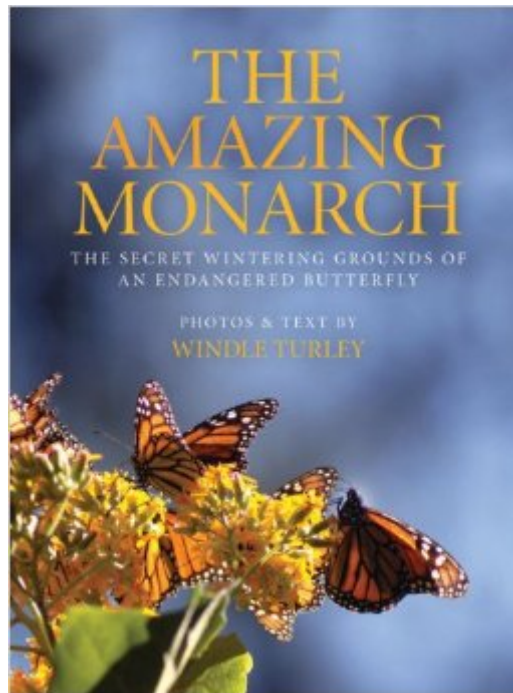


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# The Amazing Monarch: The Secret Wintering Grounds Of An Endangered Butterfly



## Synopsis

In *The Amazing Monarch*, author and photographer Windle Turley chronicles the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Replete with page after page of full-color photographs, the book shows the monarch's rarely captured destination wintering grounds. The contrast of the orange and black pops off the page as the reader goes on a visual tour in the high mountains of Mexico. The multifaceted work also contains poems and quotations focusing on the beauty of these tiny animals that weigh only .02 of an ounce. With carefully researched text and consultation with leading entomologists, *The Amazing Monarch* tracks the monarch's migration and interesting life spans. Amazingly, this migration only takes place every three to five generations, but somehow, by the last week of October, they arrive at the same small groups of oyamel fir trees their ancestors populated the year before. The handful of roosting sites, located at about 10,000 feet altitude, each may contain 20 to 30 million monarchs in a single site only a few acres in size. After their stay in Mexico, it is crucial to head north to get back to Texas and Louisiana and specific types of milkweeds to lay their eggs during a critical three-week period. If the monarchs reach their destination too early, frost on the milkweed could kill the eggs. A late arrival may mean the milkweed is no longer succulent. Returning from Mexico, the fourth or fifth generations will now have lived nine months, and before dying, will lay eggs during the last two weeks of March. A female will lay 400 to 500 eggs during her lifetime, and primarily on only one type of milkweed plant, but only a small percentage of eggs will actually survive to become adult butterflies. The offspring of the first generation travel on to Kansas and Tennessee during April where the female will again lay her eggs and die, after having lived only 45 to 60 days. The process continues to South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin in May and the Great Lakes and Canada region in June. But the fourth or fifth generation will not breed, lay eggs, or die; instead, they head south in the late summer. Granted almost unprecedented access by Mexican wildlife officials, Turley photographed the insects in their natural habitats at their sanctuaries in Los Saucos near Valle de Bravo, State of Mexico and at the Sierra Chincua Sanctuary near Mineral de Anganguo, State of Michoacán; areas unknown to outsiders until 1975.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bought this as a gift, but couldn't resist reading it before I sent it. The photos are absolutely amazing! It is a very large book and it makes the intricate photos even more impactful. Am going to buy another for MY coffee table. There is one photo of a large tree covered with the monarchs that must have stared for an hour before turning the page. They should make posters! (or do they already?)

We tag Monarch Butterflies as part of the Monarch Watch Program and we were looking for some reference material regarding Monarch Butterflies. There are many pictures of the butterflies, but not much in terms of reference material about the butterflies in general. It makes for a good coffee table book (it is big), but don't expect to find a lot of information.

I loved the photos and I learned a lot from the text at the end of the book. In the Kindle edition, I could only read in the horizontal position, and the book uses pop-up texts that you double tap - this enlarges the text. Sometimes it is awkward to try to move between paragraphs. I was not able to enlarge an important map at the end of the book. I enjoyed the poetry quotes from various authors. The photos are outstanding, and the Kindle book was free! I'm glad I found it! There are a few distracting "typos," and someone should really fix the "wind-ering" one online in the title - it is not that way on the book. (My Kindle won't even let me type the word without an apostrophe - it automatically tries to fix it!)

This oversized book not only looks good on my coffee table with all the vibrant colors, but the poetry selection is also thought provoking and inspiring. The scientific section is very interesting to read. I would highly recommend this book to grandparents, parents, uncles/aunts, friends, neighbors to buy

and give as a gift. It is eye-opening to see and read how we share our world with these tiny little creatures. The photographs alone are so beautiful and bring a peaceful feeling. I have bought many for family for Christmas and several more to hold on to for housewarming presents.

I would love to go visit the Monarch wintering site in Mexico. I was living in Oklahoma and one year was fortunate to have been in the migration belt of the Monarchs. They came by the thousands and stayed in the Oaks trees for two days. It was a sight to behold! This book is a great tribute to the Monarchs and the photos in the book are truly amazing! I would recommend this book to anyone wanting to learn more about the Monarchs migrating habits.

this book had many beautiful photographs of the monarch butterflies. truly amazing the detail and quality of the pictures. the poems of the butterfly are glorious, some I had heard before while others I had not. the factual information is concise and well wrote.

This book gives the reader insight into the life of a Monarch Butterfly. The poems and pictures are very interesting it is truly amazing how they gather for this long journey. The book is short but informative nice reading.

This weekend was the Monarch Madness Festival at the Butterfly House in my city, which our homeschool group toured last week. I downloaded this title on NetGalley in preparation for butterflies being our science topic of the week at home. The Amazing Monarch is presented mostly through Turley's photography, which blew me away. These images are so spectacular and vivid, you can actually see the "dust" (scales) on the butterflies' wings! If it looked this good on my e-reader, I can hardly imagine how incredible the images must be in print. Thoughtfully chosen quotations and poetry are interspersed throughout the pages of photography. Since the majority of the book is photography, it is probably more of a coffee table book. But the last ten pages or so consist of substantial text, full of fascinating information about the monarch's life cycle, navigation and migration, and threats to its survival - all delivered in layman's terms. My 4 year-old was captivated by the photographs, pointing out details which sparked discussion. I learned quite a bit from the text at the end. The Amazing Monarch is great for butterfly enthusiasts of all ages, and has potential to grow with its younger readers. I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. I did not receive any other compensation for this review.

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