

The Great Lakes Entomologist

Volume 28
Number 1 - Spring 1995 *Number 1 - Spring 1995*

Article 8

April 1995

Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio. David. C. Iftner, John A. Shuey & John V. Calhoun. Ohio Biological Survey Bulletin 9(1). 1992; 212 pp. \$40.00 (paper, 8.5 x 11). ISSN 0078-3994, ISBN 0-86727-107-8. Ohio Biological Survey, 1315 Kinnear Road, Columbus, OH 43212-1192; phone: 614-292-9645.

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Recommended Citation

O'Brien, Mark F. 1995. "Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio. David. C. Iftner, John A. Shuey & John V. Calhoun. Ohio Biological Survey Bulletin 9(1). 1992; 212 pp. \$40.00 (paper, 8.5 x 11). ISSN 0078-3994, ISBN 0-86727-107-8. Ohio Biological Survey, 1315 Kinnear Road, Columbus, OH 43212-1192; phone: 614-292-9645.," *The Great Lakes Entomologist*, vol 28 (1)
Available at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/tgle/vol28/iss1/8>

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BOOK REVIEW

BUTTERFLIES AND SKIPPERS OF OHIO. David. C. Iftner, John A. Shuey & John V. Calhoun. Ohio Biological Survey Bulletin 9(1). 1992; 212 pp. \$40.00 (paper, 8.5 x 11). ISSN 0078-3994, ISBN 0-86727-107-8. Ohio Biological Survey, 1315 Kinnear Road, Columbus, OH 43212-1192; phone: 614-292-9645.

It is rare that a publication this complete and well-illustrated is issued on the fauna of a state, and even rarer still, that such a publication is made possible by a collaborative effort of many individuals and several agencies. The *Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio* is a volume made possible by the efforts of the Ohio Lepidopterists and the Ohio Biological Survey. The Ohio Lepidopterists are for the most part, a number of serious amateurs and professional entomologists that have long desired to provide a check-list of the Ohio Butterfly fauna. The *Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio* has more than met my expectations for a state survey of these groups.

The *Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio* starts with a retrospective look at early Lepidopterists in Ohio, and continues into present-day collectors and enthusiasts. This is followed by a very interesting and useful section about the ecology and glacial history of the state. An understanding of the current ecology and the post-glacial history of the state is important for us to understand how current faunas are distributed. I found this section to be very useful and commend the authors on including it.

The majority of the volume is taken up by the species' accounts, and this section is very well done. The authors base their summaries on data taken from at least 16,000 specimens! A total of 144 species of butterflies and skippers are recorded from Ohio, which makes that state one of the best-surveyed areas in the Great lakes region. Again, this is in part due to the extraordinary effort put in by members of the Ohio Lepidopterists to contribute data to the survey.

Each species' treatment is accompanied by a state outline map with county records indicated, as well as a temporal distribution bar graph. Host plants, adult energy resources, flight period, and ecological parameters are provided. Most species are given a three-fourths to one-page treatment in the 8.5 x 11" book. A thorough bibliography and index really add an extra degree of usefulness to this book. The end of the book contains several useful sections; species of possible occurrence, species erroneously reported from Ohio, and a glossary! Reports of erroneous records is a useful feature. Once an erroneous record is in the literature, it stays with us like a bad debt unless someone points out it is in error. The glossary, and especially the index, will be useful for everyone. Of course, what good is a book like this without photographs of the subjects? *Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio* contains 40 excellent color plates which add significant value to the publication, and another compelling reason to add this book to your library.

The only detractor to this publication is its price. At \$40, it is probably too expensive for young amateurs to purchase. Having the book hard-bound would have also meant more longevity of the volume. However, these are two

minor complaints, and the *Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio* deserves high marks for its scope and depth of the subject.

In summary, the *Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio* should serve as a model for anyone wishing to publish a regional faunistic survey. The fact that it covers a group with wide appeal underscores the importance of doing a respectable treatment of the group. In this, the authors and contributors of the volume have succeeded, and should be proud of the resulting publication. I recommend that the *Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio* be placed in as many libraries and nature centers as possible in the Great Lakes region.

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