

The Great Lakes Entomologist

Volume 37
Numbers 1 & 2 - Spring/Summer 2004 *Numbers*
1 & 2 - *Spring/Summer 2004*

Article 10

April 2004

***The Orthoptera of Michigan– Biology, Keys, and Descriptions of Grasshoppers, Katydid, and Crickets* by Roger G. Bland, 2003.**

Mark O'Brien
University of Michigan

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/tgle>



Part of the [Entomology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

O'Brien, Mark 2004. "*The Orthoptera of Michigan– Biology, Keys, and Descriptions of Grasshoppers, Katydid, and Crickets* by Roger G. Bland, 2003.," *The Great Lakes Entomologist*, vol 37 (1)
Available at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/tgle/vol37/iss1/10>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Biology at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in *The Great Lakes Entomologist* by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.

BOOK REVIEW

***The Orthoptera of Michigan– Biology, Keys, and Descriptions of Grasshoppers, Katydid, and Crickets* by Roger G. Bland, 2003.**

Michigan State University Extension Bulletin E-2815, 220 pp.,
ISBN 1-56525-017-6, \$ 26.95.

Michigan has a long history of entomologists interested in the Orthoptera fauna of the state, and T.H. Hubbell and I.J. Cantrall had published several papers on the Orthoptera of various parts of the state, as well as state-wide lists. Later on, R.D. Alexander contributed a paper on the singing insects (primarily Orthoptera). However, with all of these earlier efforts, there was no one volume that one could turn to and find distribution information, ecological information as well as identification aids. Roger Bland's book on the Orthoptera of Michigan is welcomed, not only as a reference work for non-specialists, but also as a valued culmination of the earlier efforts that so many records are based upon.

Fully illustrated, *The Orthoptera of Michigan*, has color photographs of all of the 137 species covered in the book, as well as distribution maps and figures for the keys. Although the photographs are clear (but on the small side) my preference would have been for color illustrations that clearly show the salient features that help one identify the species. The species accounts are well-laid out, with habitat and behavioral information. I find that it is an easy book to use, with a nice page layout that facilitates browsing for information. The sections on general biology and specific biology of each group of Orthoptera are informative and well referenced. Although a short description is provided for the songs of the species that can be recognized by their acoustic behavior, it assumes that one has some familiarity with them. Bland does provide information on web-based resources for the songs, and I suppose the only alternative would have been to include a CD with the species' songs included.

My only other criticism of the book is a stylistic one – since a lot of non-specialists will be using the book, it would have been nice to present the keys in a tabular form, with character states of the diagnostic parts shown in a table. This allows one to look at all of the possibilities with one look, greatly aiding identification. However, the traditional key certainly will allow one to identify a specimen, albeit at a much slower pace. The References section is quite useful and subdivided into general references, Orthoptera of Michigan, Orthoptera of other states and regions, and Internet references. The glossary is quite complete, and will be useful for many readers.

The Orthoptera of Michigan is certainly a welcome addition to a faunal reference body of work for Michigan and the Great lakes region. It will aid anyone interested in Orthoptera to identify them and learn more about their biology and distribution. The book is spiral bound for ease-of-use, so it lies flat when being used. It belongs on the shelf of any field naturalist that works with insects, as Orthoptera are certainly some of our larger and more numerous denizens of field and woodlands. Nature centers should also have copies on hand – for users, and in the gift shops! The price is quite reasonable too, and for those that may only need to refer to it on occasion, you can view a pdf version of the book online, at <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/Bulletin/PDF/E2815.pdf>. Obviously the file is optimized for viewing on screen, and not for printing.

Mark O'Brien
Insect Division, Museum of Zoology
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079.