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**Beetles of Eastern North America. Arthur V. Evans. 2014.  
Princeton & University Press, 560 pp., 8x10 paperback.  
ISBN:9780691133041. Price: 35.00.**

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### Book Review

BETTER OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA. Arthur V. Evans. 2014. Princeton & University Press, 560 pp., 8x10 paperback. ISBN:9780691133041. Price: 35.00.

My early interests in entomology were augmented with *How to Know the Beetles* by H.E. Jacques (1951), and the Peterson Guide - *A Field Guide to the Beetles of North America* by Richard E. White (1983). In addition, Dillon and Dillon's (1972) *A Manual of Common Beetles of Eastern North America* was extremely helpful to a beginning collector trying to identify his catches. Imagine how great it would have been to have full-color photographs of the species, rather than the line drawings that dominated the literature at the time. White's wonderful full-color renderings of some of the beetles were greatly appreciated. Tackling a regional guide of large group of insects such as the Coleoptera is a major task, and although there are many catalogs and keys made over the years, all suffered from a lack of good illustrations of a significant number of species that are likely to be seen. *Beetles of Eastern North America*, by Art Evans will not disappoint the beetle enthusiast and it will delight the naturalists, as the author presents a vivid catalog with more than 1500 photographs of this huge order of insects. This is not a pocket field guide, and at 560 pages, *Beetles of Eastern North America*, is a perusable book with excellent photographs of living beetles that I found to be very enjoyable and informative. I am very pleased with the price of the book, as \$35 US is an absolute bargain for such a large, colorful volume.

One cannot begin to seriously study insects without some background in their morphology, ecology, behavior, and taxonomy. Evans has provided excellent summaries of the natural history and morphology that will be very helpful to those wanting to study beetles. In addition, I found his sections on observing, collecting, and curatorial procedures to be very good and applaud him for explaining why collecting is necessary. My only real criticism of the book is the use of common names for the families in the table of contents preceding the correct family name. However, given the nomenclatural changes in Coleoptera families over the past few years, perhaps it makes sense. With a little over 1400 species covered in all 115 families east of the Mississippi, *Beetles of Eastern North America* is an ambitious and successful guide to the beetle fauna. The species accounts vary in length -- obviously for some groups and species we know very little, and *Beetles of Eastern North America* may just be the gateway to encourage research into some of the lesser-known groups of beetles. Unlike the online Bug Guide, which may present the viewer with sometimes hundreds of images of a taxon, *Beetles of Eastern North America* has one very good photo (sometimes two) for each species that will often result in someone saying "Wow, now I know what that beetle is." As a demonstration of beetle diversity, *Beetles of Eastern North America* is a great resource and learning tool. As a guide to what one may find, *Beetles of Eastern North America* is very good, and the author provides references for those wishing to delve deeper into this amazingly diverse and interesting order of insects. *Beetles of Eastern North America* may well become the "go-to" guide for many of us, and I congratulate the author on this wonderful book. The typical response I get from those that I have shown this book to is "oooooh." *Beetles of Eastern North America* is a book that belongs in the hands of any naturalist, whether he or she likes insects or not. The diversity and beauty of these insects may just turn a few more people onto the Coleoptera.

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