



# The Antenna

**News and Information from the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network**

## **New Field Guide...**

Butterflies of North America

By Jim P. Brock & Kenn Kaufman

Published by Houghton Mifflin Company

List Price \$22.00 paperback version (internet book store prices about \$15)

*Editor's Note: Several monitors, including Viola White, highly recommend this book.*

This is an exciting new field guide for identifying butterflies. It has a very solid organization making it easy to use in the field. The edges of the pages are color coded for each family or subgroup such as hairstreaks and spread-wing skippers. The first four pages also give a description of the family or subgroup characteristics, very useful for beginners. Then there is a short treatise on anatomy and behavior. The rest of the book (minus the index in the back) is the identification pages. The left hand pages have short paragraphs describing the range, flight time, markings, and larval host plants. A range map is to the left for each and every species, making it quite easy to check that you are looking at an Illinois species, not a California one. The right hand pages show all of the photographs. They have done an excellent job of showing both an underside and topside view of every species. The photos on each page are also sized relative to each other, with a life-size shadow of the top species on the page.

There are some drawbacks to this guide, like every guide, but they are pretty minor. There is no in depth text on each species like in the Audubon and Peterson guides. However, this is rarely necessary for identification purposes. The actual size range of the species is not listed, but there is the life-size shadow as mentioned above. The field guide covers all of North America, not just Illinois or the eastern half of the country as in other guides. But with the range maps shown right next to the text, you can quickly check that you are dealing with a local species. We still suggest that you go through the index and put a tick mark next to the Illinois species to help you narrow down your possibilities. The last drawback is that they do not always list the differences in markings between similar species. Range maps, knowledge of your site species list, habitat, and Doug's grey Guide to the Butterflies of Illinois can certainly help to minimize this minor flaw.

Overall, this is one of the best laid out field guides that we have seen. We feel that beginners and experienced monitors will both enjoy the ease of using this guide.

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# Indoor Workshop 2004

The 14th annual indoor training workshop is on March 6th. We are changing our location to the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin, located in Kane County near the northwest edge of Cook County. While we love the facilities at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, especially the Butterfly Haven, we have simply outgrown their facilities. The new library in Elgin is giving us a warm welcome, so we should feel right at home.

This is the main meeting of the year for the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network (IBMN), so we strongly urge all monitors and new members to attend. We will start with announcements and our awards, then enjoy our keynote speaker. We try to pick speakers to give monitors a larger picture of what is going on in the butterfly and insect world than just our monitoring efforts. We will break for lunch, so remember to bring a sack lunch. We will also have donuts and drinks, plus a pop machine is nearby. The afternoon will consist of breakout training sessions for both beginners and experienced monitors, plus a question and answer period.

This is the first time for the question and answer period. This is the best chance of the year for you to talk to our Director, Doug Taron and get your questions answered. Please bring photographs, slide, and any questions you may have about identification or monitoring. We will have mounted specimens also available for study. Doug, Mel and several IBMN leaders will be there to help.

## Registration is Required!

To register, call Mel Manner at 847-464-4426 or e-mail her at [ibmn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ibmn@sbcglobal.net). Please give the name of each person attending and their phone number.

**Directions:** DO NOT CONTACT THE LIBRARY FOR DIRECTIONS OR INFORMATION. CONTACT MEL MANNER! The Gail Borden Public Library is at 270 North Grove Avenue in downtown Elgin. This is the northwest corner of Grove and Kimball. The easiest way to get there is to take either I-90 on the north or Route 20 (Lake Ave) on the south to Route 31. This is a north-south road that runs along the west side of the Fox River. Take Rt. 31 into downtown Elgin to Kimball Ave. Turn east and cross the river. You will see the huge, new library on your left. Turn left at the first stop light, then left again to enter the library parking lot. Park on the north side of the building, not in front, to leave room for library patrons. Walk around to the east side to the main entrance. Bear to your left as you enter to find the meeting rooms. The library website is [www.elgin.lib.il.us](http://www.elgin.lib.il.us) and has a fairly good library district map.

## 14th Annual IBMN Workshop Agenda

9:30	Sign-in
10:00	Opening Announcements and Awards
10:45	Keynote Speaker
11:45	Lunch Break - Bring a sack lunch!
12:30	Training Sessions - one for beginners, one for experienced monitors
1:30	Question and Answers with Doug, Mel and several new leaders
2:30	End

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## Electronic Newsletter

Newsletter costs continue to climb as the network expands. So we are now requiring everyone with email and internet capabilities to receive the electronic version of the newsletter. It can be viewed and/or printed through our website. The email notification contains a link and instructions for opening the newsletter. All past issues of *The Antenna* are also available on our website at [www.bfly.org](http://www.bfly.org). If you have received a paper copy, but you can switch to the electronic version, email Mel at [ibmn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ibmn@sbcglobal.net)

## Thanks to Chicago Wilderness Magazine

Cw put in a short blurb about our network in their latest issue available at most local bookstores. We have already received several phone calls and emails from interested people, and have had two new people join as new monitors. This is a wonderful publication, full of information about our natural world in our area, as well as a great resource for restoration news. They are also quite generous in their support for all of the local volunteer organizations. If you don't read this magazine yet, make sure to check it out soon.

## Annual Reports

We used to record the annual reports in the January issue each year. However, with the rising costs of newsletters and the growing number of email users, this is no longer feasible. The 2003 annual reports will be available on our website in pdf format on February 28<sup>th</sup>. An email notice with a link to our site will be sent out once the reports are posted. If you receive a paper copy of the newsletter, you will be mailed copies of the annual reports. All landowners will also receive copies of the annual reports, as well as the individual site reports for their land holdings.

## Regional Training Workshops

We will be holding small, regional, training workshops throughout the spring season. Most of these workshops will be for beginners and new members. At least one workshop will be for second year monitors. These workshops will be in different counties in the Chicagoland area. We'll have a listing of each workshop available at the March Indoor Workshop (see page 2). We'll also post the listings on the IBMN website, [www.bfly.org](http://www.bfly.org), by March 1<sup>st</sup>. If you ideas for workshops, contact Mel Manner.

## 30 Endangered Species Act Success Stories Profiled

*Editor's note: This piece was submitted by TNC Volunteer Coordinator, Karen Billo, who is a wonderful help to us.*

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act a coalition of groups working to defend imperiled species have released fact sheets profiling 30 species "that would most likely be extinct but for the protections afforded by the law" says U.S. PIRG 1/7. Because of continued loss and degradation of habitat, invasive species and other escalating threats many of the profiled plants and animals continue to require ESA protection and the factsheets "demonstrate that numerous species are making steady progress toward recovery that would otherwise be impossible without the ESA." The complete set of 30 factsheets are available at <http://www.uspirg.org/esa>.

## Thanks for using data entry!

Around 65 sites successfully entered their 2003 data online. This saved Doug and Mel many, many hours of work and helped test out the new system. Some minor bugs were found, but were easily fixed. Doug continues to examine the system and update it as needed to make it user friendly. Thanks to everyone who participated. We look forward to an even smoother year in 2004.

## Butterflies Added to Canada's Threatened List

*Editor's note: This piece was submitted by TNC Volunteer Coordinator, Karen Billo. Thanks, Karen!*

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), "a national organization that assesses the status of animal, plant and insect populations around the country," has listed the Dakota skipper and Poweshik skipperling, two prairie butterflies to the list of threatened species says the Regina Sun 1/4. In their latest review of 23 species, COSEWIC also listed Canada's largest freshwater fish, the white sturgeon and the butternut tree as endangered. "Since 1978, COSEWIC has reviewed the status of about 600 of Canada's estimated 70,000 species" listing 108 as threatened, 160 as endangered and 21 as extinct.

## IBMN Sources for Information

Mel Manner frequently gets asked the same questions over and over. Part of this is inevitable, and she is happy to help. However, many of the answers to these questions can be found in the IBMN materials available to all monitors. Please look through these materials to familiarize yourself with what is in each one.

**WWW.BFLY.ORG** : This is the IBMN website. It has the full guidelines, field form, some workshop handouts, and all the issues of *The Antenna*. All of this can be viewed or printed anytime. Announcements, links to interesting sites, and many other things are also available there.

**IBMN Guidelines:** This is your handbook to setting routes and monitoring. Mel has also worked hard to make a useful set of appendices, including a list of all the Illinois species by common name and Latin name. It also includes a sample field form, and a blank one for you to copy. Each monitor is given a copy of this when he or she joins.

**The Antenna:** The newsletter is our main way to communicate within the network. We include reminders for monitoring and data submission, upcoming workshop announcements, items of interest in the butterfly and insect world, and book reviews, often of new field guides or other butterfly books. We are always interested in new items for the newsletter, and suggestions for new columns. This is your newsletter. Read it and help us make it as useful a tool as possible.

**IBMN's Guide to the Butterflies of Illinois:** This grey booklet is a supplemental guide to your field guide. It is a quick summary of useful information. It includes the remnancy, host plant, and habitat for each species in Illinois. Copies were mailed out to each monitor over the last three years. Every new monitor is given a copy in their beginning packet. We will also make it available through our website in early June.

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