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## Review of *Butterflies of Oklahoma, Kansas, and North Texas* By John M. Dole, Walter B. Gerard, and John M. Nelson

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**Butterflies of Oklahoma, Kansas, and North Texas.** By John M. Dole, Walter B. Gerard, and John M. Nelson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2004. xiv + 282 pp. Photographs, maps, tables, appendix, glossary, bibliography, index. \$24.95 paper.

This little book is a guide to 100 of the most common among approximately 255 butterfly species on record for the region it covers. Major taxonomic

groupings are distinguished by color bars at the tops of pages. Colloquial nomenclature follows the North American Butterfly Association's *Checklist and English Names of North American Butterflies* (2001). Order of presentation and scientific names accord essentially with Opler and Warren, *Scientific Names List for Butterfly Species of North America, North of Mexico* (2002). Each species account presents up to four photographs of adults in nature, much in the style of the *Butterflies through Binoculars* series. Quality of the photographs, most taken by the second author, ranges from good to excellent. My only criticism is that because of the book's diminutive dimensions (5 x 7 inches) some small species appear at 200% of life size, while the largest are as little as 25% (*Papilio glaucus* is figured at 1.5 inches). The uniformity of image dimensions may have been convenient for the printer, but less than ideal for a field guide user.

The small format results in a compact but surprisingly thorough textual treatment for each species. The writing is concise and informative. Each account includes sections on size (wingspan in inches), description, similar species, habitat, major food plants, abundance, flight season, and general comments. Also included for each species is an occurrence map with each county of record filled in across the three-state region, giving the reader a rough estimate of general distribution for most species.

Much of the book (145 pages) is taken up by part 1 (the species accounts). Part 2 (83 pages) includes informative chapters on life stages and butterfly rearing, butterfly survival (reproduction, predator evasion, conservation), butterfly gardening, the region's butterfly "hotspots," butterfly photography, and butterfly identification. The appendix constitutes a checklist of species on record for the region. The book ends with a glossary, information about resources, a bibliography, and index.

This is an aesthetically striking little volume—easy to use and graphically well organized. While it does not provide a complete representation of the region's butterfly fauna, any butterfly watcher or naturalist who lives or works there will want a copy for reference in the field. **Ronald Alan Royer**, *Division of Science, Minot State University*.