

Clearly identifying gulls is fraught with lots of pitfalls for the less than careful. Identification of vagrant gulls need to be done with vast care and all the field marks need to be examined. Likewise we should not pass off our local crowd of gulls as being the usual species; a great treasure could be hidden in the flock.

The pros and cons of gull taxonomy notwithstanding, this book is a wealth of information. The same exacting detail is given for all the species in the book, making it a treasure trove for the dedicated birder. Regardless of your opinion on the status of the species

splits, there is much material for good scientific discussion and a basis for careful field observations. This all leads to the final question – why not go all the way and write *Gulls of the World*. After all it is only 13 more species, barring splits!

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Literature Cited

Harrison, Peter. 1983. *Seabirds: An Identification Guide*. Helm Field Guides Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Massachusetts

The Monarch Butterfly: Biology and Conservation

By Karen S. Oberhauser and Michelle J. Solensky, Eds. 2004. Cornell University Press, New York. vii + 248 pages, illus. \$39.95 US.

This book consists of a collection of scientific papers on the Monarch, divided into chapters on reproduction, migration and overwintering biology as well as some miscellaneous papers on general topics. Each of the four chapters is prefaced by a brief overview written by the editors. Karen Oberhauser is an Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota, while Michelle Solensky is with the Department of Biology at the University of St. Thomas. The information presented includes observations from each of the three major Monarch populations worldwide (eastern and western North America and Australia).

This book contains a great deal of interesting information, presented as original scientific literature. The majority of the papers are well-written, although some are likely to be overly technical (especially in terms of the statistical analyses) for some readers. Of particular interest are the papers on citizen-based research programs, which present data collected by widespread networks of volunteers. These papers demonstrate how, with relatively modest training and logistical support, public participation can be used to enable research into wide-ranging populations which could otherwise prove difficult or impossible to monitor effectively. The overviews which introduce each of the four chap-

ters help to make the information presented in the book more accessible to a broader audience (including, perhaps, some of the volunteers whose efforts are reported).

The black-and-white photographs which accompany each overview are excellent. However, the overall paucity of illustrations (other than the numerous graphs contained within the various papers) is regrettable. With such a colourful and attractive subject as the Monarch, surely it would not have been difficult to find more photographs to include in the book? Aside from their purely aesthetic value, additional photographs or drawings could have been used to enhance the text by illustrating some of the features, behaviours and methodologies described (e.g., growth and development, wing damage caused by courtship, experimental equipment design, etc.).

In short, this book presents interesting data on every major aspect of Monarch biology, with additional emphasis on the need to extend and incorporate such data into ongoing and future conservation efforts. However, the scientific format of the text may deter some readers, which is unfortunate considering the widespread public interest (as acknowledged in the book) in this familiar and beloved butterfly species.

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The Behavior and Ecology of Pacific Salmon and Trout

By Thomas P. Quinn. 2005. American Fisheries Society in Association with the University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver, Canada. 378 pages, illus. Cloth CDN \$85.00; paper CDN \$44.95.

The vast amount of literature on the Pacific salmon is rather intimidating. Indeed, several years ago when I first began conducting research on this group of fish after leaving the Midwest, it was difficult to know where to begin. Today there is a clear starting point I would read *The Behavior and Ecology of Pacific Salmon and Trout* by Thomas Quinn. This book is an excellent resource for students and fisheries scientists, providing a broad overview of Pacific salmon ecology. However,

this book also has broader appeal to animal ecologists and naturalists. Thomas Quinn is a prominent ecologist (Professor at the University of Washington) who has devoted his career to research on Pacific salmon. He shares his passion and experience in the first comprehensive book to focus on the ecology and behaviour of the Pacific salmon. This book is complementary to other compilations on this group of fishes such as the *Physiological Ecology of Pacific Salmon* by Groot, Margolis, and Clarke.

The book is focused on the salmon and trout in the Genus *Oncorhynchus*. This multi-species approach is one that could easily lead to confusion. However, Quinn