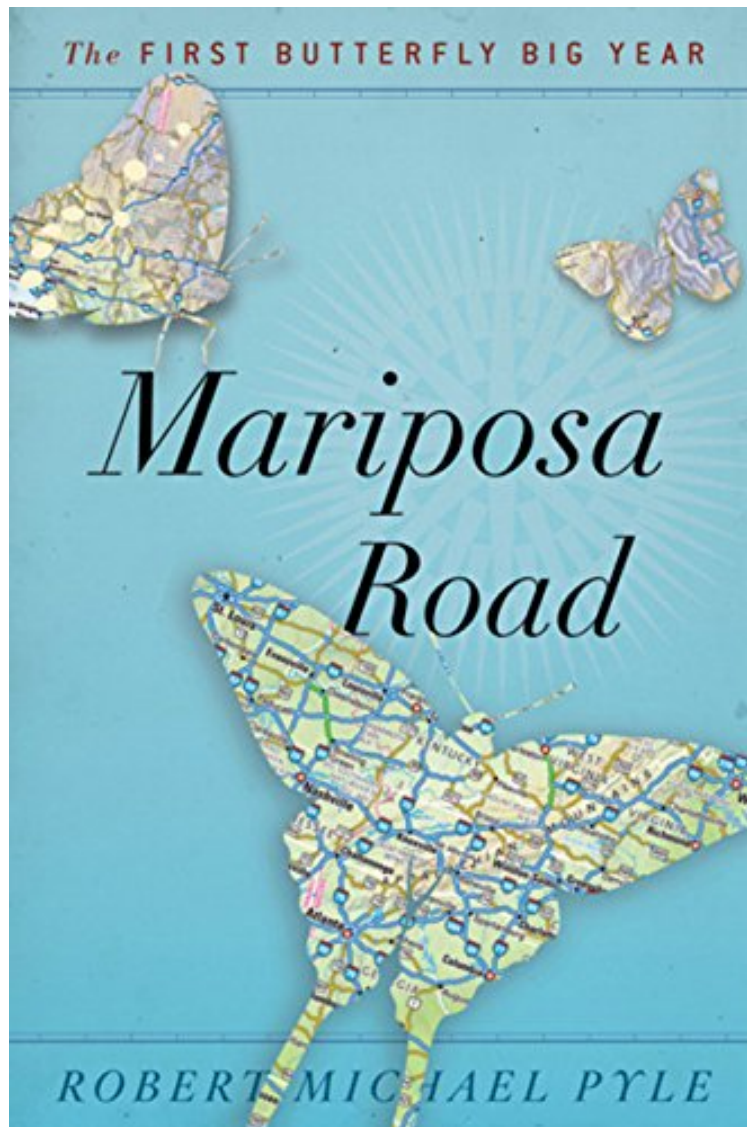


[Ebook pdf] Mariposa Road: The First Butterfly Big Year

Mariposa Road: The First Butterfly Big Year

Robert Michael Pyle

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Robert Michael Pyle : Mariposa Road: The First Butterfly Big Year before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mariposa Road: The First Butterfly Big Year:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well written and great story By Dan the man For years, some hard core birders have attempted to see how many species of birds they could see in one calendar year. Mr. Pyle spent a year to see how many species of butterflies he could see in the United States. It's a great story. I'm lucky to have too briefly met Mr. Pyle before this book came out. Whether you are serious in studying butterflies or not at all, reading this book will make you more interested in the many types of butterflies. Heck, no matter what, I think anyone will

find this interesting. He traveled around the U.S. and got together with people he already knew and encountered many other people in good circumstances. For me, one little part of what made his trips so interesting is driving all around in his already old car. I don't hesitate to give this book a high rating. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Very Inspiring Informative
By Anita L. Simonsen
Loved the fact that he included the plants, trees etc. in each area that attracted the butterflies--so if you went to the locations you would know what to look for to help you locate the most butterflies. Also liked the personal interactions with the locals and friends in the areas. I am born raised in the Homestead/Fla. City, FL area and have fond memories of going to "Robert is Here" and the locations in the Everglades, FL Keys etc. The intricate descriptions of the wing colorations markings were unbelievable!! His concern for the wildlife and the ecosystems in the areas he visited that were being stressed destroyed should be a wake up call for all of us....before we no longer have any butterflies to go look for and enjoy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A Herculean Effort Under Daunting Conditions
By Fred Keller
Pyle's idea of a "big year" for butterflies akin to those done for birds was an interesting concept and in his effort to log as many of the ~800 North American taxa as possible in one year he accomplished a great deal in affording insight on butterfly taxonomy, host plant identity and butterfly development. The text is not illustrated other than for a few thumbnail photos on the end papers and the author suggests concomitant use of a current field guide such as Kaufman and Brock so as to provide illustrations of his finds. An index of English names for the butterflies found would have been quite useful. The lack of funds for the journeys necessitated sleeping in his car in mall parking lots and subsisting on minimal nourishment at times and these hardships unfortunately became a dominant theme. The number of species was slightly inflated by recording finding of eggs on host plants in the same way as adults. I'll leave it to others to judge if this is a well accepted practice. In this way, the financing of the venture based on species count may have detracted from the total effort. Pyle is a skilled author with much knowledge and insight to impart. The book is an interesting read!

Part road-trip tale, part travelogue of lost and found landscapes, all good-natured natural history, Mariposa Road tracks Bob Pyle's journey across the United States as he races against the calendar in his search for as many of the 800 American butterflies as he can find.

From Booklist
Kenn Kaufman wrote the wonderful *Kingbird Highway* (1997) about his attempt at a Big Year, an effort to find more birds in one calendar year than anyone ever had before. Pyle, author of the equally wonderful *Chasing Monarchs* (1999), in which he followed the migrating monarch butterflies, decided to try a butterfly Big Year and the present book is his delightful travelogue of butterfly hunting around North America. True to his other inspiration, Pyle's paean to the mariposas (Spanish for butterflies) is as much about the people he met and the places he chased his sometimes elusive prey as it is about butterflies. Pyle keeps things low-tech: Marsha, a cottonwood-limb butterfly net; his 35-year-old Leitz binoculars; and a bunch of field guides, maps, notebooks, and mechanical pencils. Many pints of beer (all mentioned by name) are consumed; many fellow naturalists met up with; and many insect bites, minor injuries, vagaries of weather, and car repairs are dealt with, until by the end of the year Pyle had seen 477 species, all of which are listed in the appendix. This one is great fun. --Nancy Bent
Toss out any notion you might have had about butterfly watchers and meet Bob Pyle: scientist and daredevil, philosopher and magician, pioneer and rebel, and the finest of companions for a vagabond journey. Follow him down the rip-roaring Mariposa Road and you'll never look at a butterfly, or the world, in the same way again.
Kenn Kaufman, author of *Kingbird Highway*