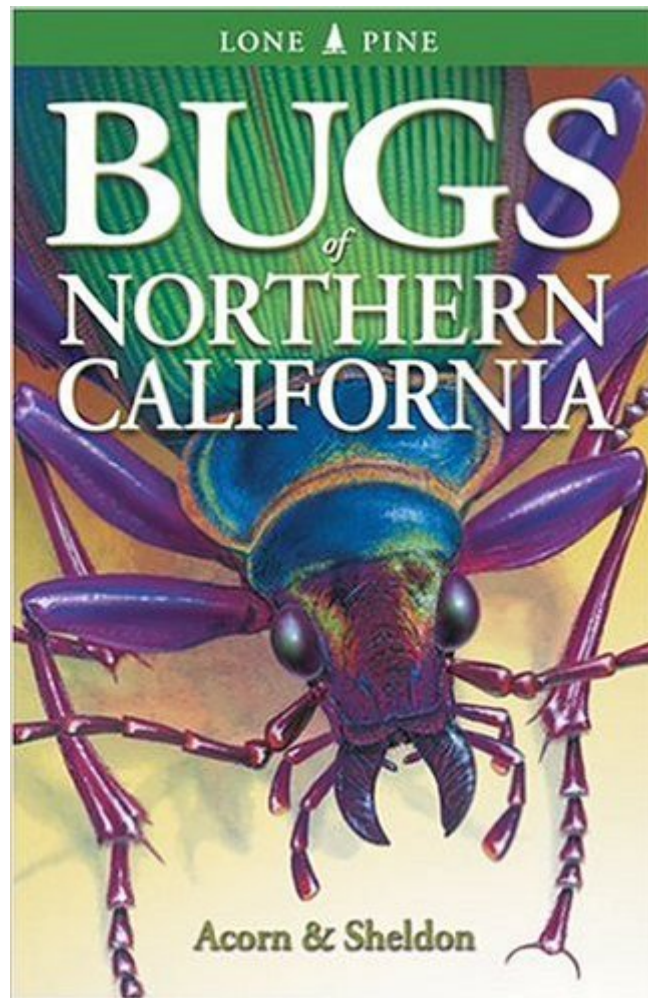


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Bugs Of Northern California



Synopsis

Television's Nature Nut, John Acorn, teams up with nature illustrator Ian Sheldon to craft a witty and personable book about the myriad insects and arachnids found throughout the diverse habitats of Northern California.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #392,190 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Butterflies](#) #187 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Insects & Spiders](#) #624 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bugs & Spiders](#)

Customer Reviews

I just got this guide last month. It has bright attractive illustrations and was an immediate hit with my kids and me. We didn't know much to start with, but this guide has a picture index in the front that makes it easy to find the mystery bug. For us, it helps that we don't need to know taxonomy. Because it is region specific, we don't have to waste a lot of time wading through all the bugs we're unlikely to see anyway--I assume this is something like the "top 100" of local bugs, so just about everything I see in the book looks familiar. I also like that the book provides a little narrative about each bug, not just its name, so we feel like we're really learning something. I suspect it's not big enough for all the bugs we'll come across, but so far it is serving us well by wetting our appetite.

As noted by others and even by the author himself, it's not meant to be a scientific study of each of the thousands of bugs in Northern California. Rather, it's meant to satisfy a beginner's interest. For me, from time to time I see certain bugs and I wonder what they are and what they're doing... it's not a passion, but rather a curiosity that has been well satisfied by this book. If ever I want to know more, my next purchase would be a more comprehensive and scientific book. This book contains (I

think) 125 of the bugs that one would be most likely to wonder about -- the ones that stand out or that are very plentiful in the area. I like the illustrations, rather than photographs. The illustrations are well-done and large and clear -- clearer than "in the wild" photographs and less disgusting than photographs of poor, dead, mounted creatures. I think one of the best parts of the book is the introduction. This is the main reason I would recommend this book to people who have an interest themselves or who have children interested in entomology. The author presents an easily understandable overview and he speaks with passion, knowledge and love for his topic! He briefly covers the biology and ecology, and he speaks frankly and kindly about human interaction with bugs, as observers, collectors, and as co-existing species. Throughout the book, the author makes small comments that pique interest for and admiration of these little critters! I'm still a little grossed out by bugs, but at least I have increased my respect from a safe distance!

Purchased for a friend's 5 year old who loves bugs. Him and his family enjoy the drawings and the blurbs about each bug. Yes, they are drawings- but the drawings are very precise and they have already caught and identified many bugs. Their son loves to learn from the book as they read to them and he loves to search through the pictures to identify his new catch. Excellent book and thorough enough for the budding entomologist.

Like most Lone Pine publications, this one is a hit. It's just *fun* and fascinating to read. Part of me would like to see some range maps, and with 20,000 bug species in CA, this book clearly represents a small subset of what you might see. However, in less than 200 pages the author crams an amazing amount of "gee whiz" information. The illustrations of insects discussed are of an unusually high quality (bravo Ian Sheldon).

This book is far from comprehensive for this geographical area and has NO photos. It seems written by a high schooler and uses a lot of editorial comments to make up for lack of facts. I think we used to call it padding. I was hoping for a Peterson-type guide. I returned the book. Nice cover.

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