

Wagner, D. L., D. F. Schweitzer, J. B. Sullivan, and R. C. Reardon. *Owlet Caterpillars of Eastern North America* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae). Princeton University Press. 722 manuscript pages. In review.

*Owlet Caterpillars of Eastern North America* was written as a companion volume to *Geometroid Caterpillars of Northeastern and Appalachian Forests* (Wagner et al. 2002). While ostensibly it is an identification guide for caterpillars, we endeavored to build beyond this by adding images and information about the adults and other life stages, natural enemies, invertebrate conservation, and animal behavior—much of which is original. The first three authors collectively have been studying eastern noctuids and related moths for more than 85 years. The guide is richly imbued with their unpublished data and personal observations. Introductory sections on finding caterpillars, rearing, baiting, and natural enemies are extensive and include much information that is not found in other literature. An extensive, original key, rich in images, will enable users to identify most eastern noctuid caterpillars to subfamily and in some cases, genus and species. The larvae of dozens of species are illustrated and described for the first time. Likewise, we supply new foodplant records and previously unpublished information on behavior, phenology, abundance, development, and overwintering stages. Several erroneous foodplant records, some of which have been repeated in the literature for upwards of 100 years, are corrected.

Text for 107 (of the 658 total) species is reproduced largely unchanged from *Caterpillars of Eastern North America* (Wagner 2005), although in many cases we modified the species account—swapping in a new congener or rewriting the treatment. In most cases, we selected different images to represent the overlapping species so that the two works would remain complementary. As in previous efforts, the guide was written and designed to be understandable and useful to educators and the general public, while at the same time serving the needs of forest managers, extension agents, conservation biologists, and professional entomologists. We were especially disposed to writing a book that could serve as a portal into entomology to students and those without training in the sciences. In particular, the expanded introductory sections and species remarks were written with these audiences in mind.

A completed draft (sans images and index) is available for viewing/downloading on my web site: <http://www.eeb.uconn.edu/people/wagner/>. We estimate the work will contain more than 1800 images: We collaborated with a host of photographers to supply live images of adults as they might be encountered in nature—this will be the first book of New World moths to feature images of living moths in a comprehensive manner.