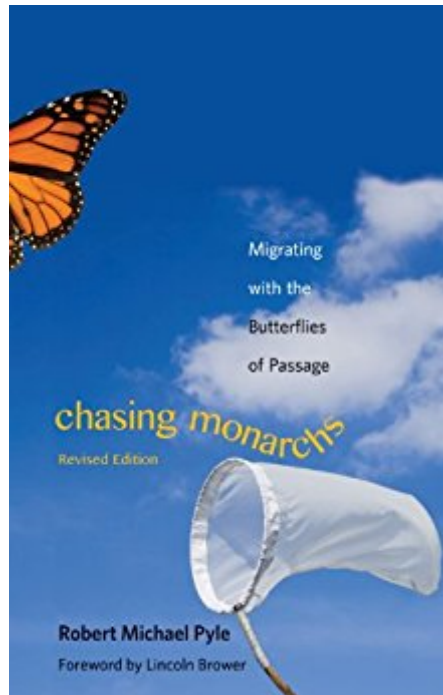


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# Chasing Monarchs: Migrating With The Butterflies Of Passage



## Synopsis

Although no one had ever followed North American monarch butterflies on their annual southward journey to Mexico and California, in the 1990s there were well-accepted assumptions about the nature and form of the migration. But to Robert Michael Pyle, a naturalist with long experience in monarch conservation, the received wisdom about the butterflies' long journey just didn't make sense. In the autumn of 1996 he set out to uncover the facts, to pursue the tide of 'cinnamon sailors' on their long, mysterious flight. *Chasing Monarchs* chronicles Pyle's 9,000-mile journey to discover firsthand the secrets of the monarchs' annual migration. Part road trip, part outdoor adventure, and part natural history study, Pyle's book overturns old theories and provides insights both large and small regarding monarch butterflies, their biology, and their spectacular migratory travels. Since the book's first publication, its controversial conclusions have been fully confirmed, and monarchs are better understood than ever before. The Afterword for this volume includes not only updated information on the myriad threats to monarch butterflies, but also various efforts under way to ensure the future of the world's most amazing butterfly migration.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm amazed no one else wrote about this book. Lepidopterists know it, and Pyle, well. My friends at the New York Butterfly Club put me on to this book and Kurt Johnson's Nabokov's Blues. They are both great books. Pyle's book takes you on a journey from the Pacific Northwest all the way to Mexico, following the annual fall migration of these magnificent orange butterflies. You not only learn about butterflies but a historical travelog of much of the old west, tidbits of local history, fantastic scenery and lots of scientific adventure and daring. Conservation issues are the internal lesson, so you have a worthwhile message along with a great story. The other book, about Nabokov's science is similar-- a great adventure story with butterflies, and a great novelist/writer as central character. Someone told me butterflies are about as popular now as dinosaurs. Its easy to see why. I live and work in the city, so reading about the great outdoors is a great break and fascination. Its wonderful that respected scientists are telling fascinating stories about the creatures they study. You can't go wrong with either of these books.

Bob Pyle has given us an insightful look into the butterfly lover's life and inspirations. This a nice way to review your own feelings about conservation, the natural world, and how you spend your time. Traveling will never be the same again for me. Now I can boldly ask any convenience store clerk, "Have you seen any Monarchs lately?" This book is a travel log, a natural history lesson, and an expansive look at the world around us.

I was fascinated by the subject matter and impressed by the positive reviews. However, the reader is horrible. His style is not to read, but to emote in an affected style like a bad Shakespearean actor. I tried twice to listen to the narrative, but his voice was like fingernails on a blackboard and I could only last 10 minutes. Get the print version and spare yourself some auditory pain.

I read Robert Michael Pyle's book, "Mariposa Road," so I had to read this book, also. They have become two of my favorite books. Pyle covers a lot of territory on his journey searching for Monarchs. I enjoyed his creative writing, wit and great sense of humor when describing the nature he encountered, even human nature. He has made me more aware of the troubling Monarchs. Milkweed is now growing in my yard in hopes to lure Monarchs to lay eggs.

This book is excellent; if you loved Anne Dillard's you will love this one. Nuff said.

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