Butterflies
A Complete Guide to
Their Biology and Behavior
DICK VANE-WRIGHT

Butterflies immediately catch our attention with their beautiful wing patterns and colors. They exemplify metamorphosis with the creeping caterpillar transforming into a soaring butterfly. They have also come to be creatures of science, revealing much to biologists about evolution and the ecological processes and historical accidents that have generated the diversity of life on Earth.

In Butterflies, Dick Vane-Wright provides a complete introduction to the biology, natural history, and classification of this major group. Using examples from around the world and eye-catching photographs, he explores what it means to be a butterfly, from how the yellow birdwing finds a mate to why the African gaudy commodores produce adults of different colors.

Dick Vane-Wright is a specialist on the taxonomy, evolution, and classification of butterflies. He worked at the Natural History Museum, London, for more than forty years, becoming Head of the Department of Entomology, and continues to bring a love of these enchanting insects to a wider audience.

“This colorful book is a fascinating introduction to the complex world of the butterfly. If you want to learn about false eyes or false heads, mimicry and mockers, adaption and evolution, it’s all here. Once you’ve read this book, even the cabbage white will never look the same again.”
—New Scientist