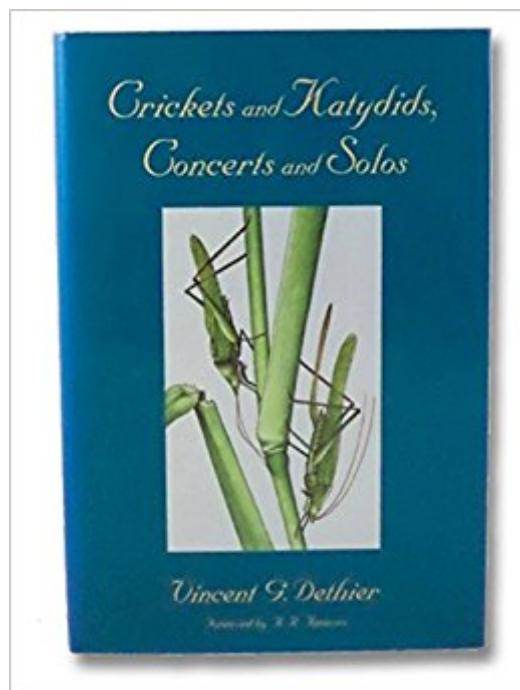


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# Crickets And Katydids, Concerts And Solos



## Synopsis

From Mount Washington to the salt marshes of Cape Cod, a chorus of insects chirrups and peeps and rustles away the golden hours of summer and fall. In "Crickets and Katydids", Vincent G. Dethier invites readers to share in the pleasure offered by these tiny musicians in our midst. A companion volume to G.W. Pierce's 1948 "Songs of insects", this book introduces amateur naturalists and lovers of nature to some of the more common singing crickets, locusts, and grasshoppers of the northeastern United States. Dethier emphasizes the "world" of these insects and their place in it. He presents a glimpse of the ecology of the singing Orthoptera, the conditions under which they are studied, and the people who have studied them. For those who wish to delve more deeply into the classification, structure, and habits of particular species, Dethier includes keys for identification of insects and their songs, as well as a table of seasonal distribution.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the late afternoon of a late summer day when the sun turns a room to amber, someone has left behind a thin book with an awkward name. It tells of heard, but unseen, things beyond the windows, of katydids and fiddling crickets. The author was, at the time, a young man during the Great Depression. He wrote of those days more than fifty years later with a clear mind and the lovely touch of a poet who worked in prose. He had been, in the early 1930's, an apprentice entomologist roaming the fields of Massachusetts. He not only noticed things most people rarely see. He sought those things out. He wrote well of humans, the old ones gathered nightly to watch the locomotive

thunder by. He wrote equally well of cows "gloriously drunk" on long-fallen apples. But he wrote best of all about insects, of collecting crickets at night in a graveyard. He honored the locust, lauding their "tenure on Earth exceeding the period of occupation of human beings and an ability to compete successfully with people." Finally, he wrote movingly of summer shutting down and autumn nearing. He saw the once fresh and brilliant flowers fading to the "colors of the aged" and the "rough and tweedy" fields "as though an old brown woolen jacket had been thrown over them to ward off the chill." Above all, this overlooked book is about the virtues of listening and paying attention, hearing the hidden things that also have value in their lives, and in ours.

A fantastic book very much along the lines of Sigurd Olson's brilliant nature prose and yet not far from Aldo Leopold's writings. A must if you like or have any interest in sound or insects. You'll never listen to the world outside the same way again!!

Starting from the field laboratory at Franklin, New Hampshire and covering other areas in New England, Vincent Dethier introduces us to the rhythmic grace of the orthopterans. Each species of crickets, grasshoppers, katydids, etc. with their own songs to play while each individual played those songs with different styles. It is the 1930s at the time of the Depression. While at the field laboratories, Dethier who is a graduate student working with a professor during the summertime, record and interpret these songs. They work together to capture the songs of the unseen individuals in the fields. Behaviors of the orthopteran change as summer passes and autumn approaches, which are heard in the song they play for Mother Nature. This natural history book is written in a well-organized first person perspective. The moment I picked up this book, I did not have much knowledge or understanding of crickets nor did I know what katydids were. This was not just a book that an entomologist could enjoy. "Crickets and Katydids, Concerts and Solos" educated me on the subject of orthopterans in a more artistic approach. The text was written accurately but was slightly difficult to keep up with some vocabulary. Finishing the book had a very satisfying feeling and also relief. Some points were redundant and lost my attention for a bit but learned a lot on the behaviors of crickets, grasshoppers, and locust. This book has definitely changed my way of enjoying scenery and cricket chirps. The book is written like a personal journal and the way Dethier shows his perspective while changing yours is beautifully executed. I recommend this book if you want a chill read as a music lover but you must also have an interest in entomology.

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