How to Use This Checklist
This leaflet list 67 species of butterflies that have been seen on the refuge. So grab your book, binoculars and a pencil so that as you spot butterflies during your tour of the refuge you can check them off on this list. If you should find an unlisted or “rare” species please let us know at Refuge Headquarters. We will appreciate your help in updating our records.

This checklist is arranged according to Jonathan Pelham’s Catalogue of the Butterflies of the United States and Canada. Data for this checklist were compiled by Walter Gerard, co-author (with John Dole and John Nelson) of Butterflies of Oklahoma, Kansas, and North Texas.

Additional data was compiled by John Fisher and Dr. John M. Nelson.

Please note that insect abundance can be highly variable especially in regions such as Oklahoma where prolonged droughts are often followed by widespread heavy rains. In general, butterflies tend to be more abundant in the late summer and fall.

Skippers
Family: Hesperiidae
Skippers are small butterflies with stout bodies. They resemble day-flying moths, but unlike moths, they have “club-shaped” antennae. Common wing colors include orange, brown, black, and white. A few have patches of iridescence. Flight is often rapid, perching posture is unique and the hindwings are opened at a wider angle than the forewings. Spread-winged Skipper caterpillars feed on broad-leaved plants. Grass Skippers feed on grasses and their allies. Both sub-families of caterpillars feed within rolled leaf shelters, which reduces their vulnerability to predators. Loss of native grasses due to changes in land usage is causing a decline in population of this group of butterflies.

Spread-wing Skippers
Subfamily: Pyrginae
___Silver Spotted Skipper
__Epargyreus clarus
___Hoary Edge
__Achalarus lyciades

___Southern Cloudywing
__Thorybes bathyllus
___Northern Cloudywing
__Thorybes pylades
___Confused Cloudywing
__Thorybes confusis
___Horace’s Duskywing
__Erynnis horatius
___Funereal Duskywing
__Erynnis funeralis
___Wild Indigo Duskywing
__Erynnis baptisiae
___Common Checkered-Skipper
__Pyrgus communis

Grass Skippers
Subfamily: Hesperiinae
___Least Skipper
__Ancyloxypha numitor
___Swarthy Skipper
__Nastra herminier
___Eufala Skipper
__Lerodea eufala
___Clouded Skipper
__Lerema accius
___Fiery Skipper
__Hylephila phyleus
___Tawny-edged Skipper
__Polites themistocles
___Crossline Skipper
__Polites origenes
___Southern Broken-Dash
__Wallengrenia otho
___Sachem
__Atalopedes campestris
___Zabulon Skipper
__Poanes zabulon
___Delaware Skipper
__Anartystone logan
___Dun Skipper
__Euphyes vestris

Swallowtails
Family: Papilionidae
Largest of our butterflies, swallowtails are recognized by the “tails” on their hind wings. The background color is black with yellow and/or blue markings. Adults visit flowers for nectar and hover above the flower instead of resting all their weight on it. Males of most species patrol for mates, while others perch on hilltops. Most caterpillars have prominent “eyespots;” all have an osmeterium, a foul-smelling forked-organ thought to repel predators. Many larvae feed on Rutaceae (citrus family) or Apiaceae (carrot family).

___Pipevine Swallowtail
__Battus philenor
___Black Swallowtail
__Papilio polyxenes
___Giant Swallowtail
__Papilio cresphontes
___Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
__Papilio glaucus
___Spicebush Swallowtail
__Papilio troilus

Whites and Sulphurs
Family: Pieridae
As their common name suggests, whites and sulphurs show shades of white, yellow, or yellowish-green. Most have subtle reddish or white markings on their underside. They can be large to small but most are mid-sized. The caterpillars tend to be green and cylindrical. Host plants are mostly Brassicaceae (mustard family) for whites and Fabaceae (bean family) for sulphurs. Adults are often seen extracting salts and minerals from the damp earth. If the soil is dry, they will inject liquid to dissolve the minerals so they can suck them up using their proboscs. This activity is referred to as “mud puddling.”

Sulphurs
Subfamily: Coliadinae
___Dainty Sulphur
__Nathalis iole
___Sleepy Orange
__Eurema nicippe
___Little Yellow
__Eurema lisa
___Clouded Sulphur
__Colias philodice
___Orange Sulphur
__Colias eurytheme
Monarchs are known to migrate thousands of miles to central Mexico in the winter and back to the United States during the summer months. Photograph © by Bill Adams

Some field guides split this family into separate smaller families. Monarchs deserve special recognition as the world’s only insect to make a continent-wide migration, returning annually to their centralized overwintering location.

American Snout
Libytheana carinenta

Milkweed Butterflies
Subfamily: Danainae

Monarch
Danaus plexippus

Admirals and Relatives
Subfamily: Limenitidinae

Red-spotted Purple
Limenitis arthemis astyanax

Viceroy
Limenitis archippus

Heliconians and Fritillaries
Subfamily: Heliconiinae

Gulf Fritillary
Agraulis vanillae

Variegated Fritillary
Euptoieta claudia

Emperors
Subfamily: Apaturinae

Hackberry Emperor
Asterocampa celtis

True Brush-foots
Subfamily: Nymphalinae

American Lady
Vanessa virginiensis

Painted Lady
Vanessa cardui

Red Admiral
Vanessa atalanta

Mourning Cloak
Nymphalis antiopa

Question Mark
Polygonia interrogationis

Common Buckeye
Junonia coenia

Silvery Checkerspot
Chlosyne nycteis

Phaon Crescent
Phyciodes phaon

Pearl Crescent
Phyciodes tharos

Leafwings
Subfamily: Charaxinae

Goatweed Leafwing
Anaea andrea

Satyrs
Subfamily: Satyrinae

Northern Pearly-eye
Enodia anthedon

Gemmed Satyr
Clytus gemma

Carolina Satyr
Hermeuptychia sosybius

Little Wood Satyr
Megisto cymela

Common Wood-nymph
Cercyonis pegala

Wildlife Watching Tips

Dawn and dusk are the best times to see wildlife.

Little is moving on hot summer afternoons or on windy days.

Try sitting quietly in one good location. Let wildlife get used to your presence. Be aware of sounds. Often you will hear more than you will see.

Teach children quiet observation. Other wildlife watchers will appreciate your consideration.

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