



Butter flies of *Tishomingo*

National Wildlife Refuge

How to Use This Checklist

This checklist lists 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 Butter flies of the United States and Canada*. Data for this checklist were compiled by Walter Gerard, co-author (with John Dole and John Nelson) of *Butter flies 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: Hesperidae

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 confusus
- ___ Horace's Duskywing
Erynnis horatius
- ___ Funereal Duskywing
Erynnis funeralis
- ___ Wild Indigo Duskywing
Erynnis baptisiae
- ___ Common Checkered-Skipper
Pyrgus communis

Grass Skippers

Subfamily: Hesperinae

- ___ 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
Anatrytone 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).



Funereal Duskywing

Photograph by Bill Adams

- ___ 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 proboscis. 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

