



Butterflies of *Tishomingo*

National Wildlife Refuge

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 lherminier
- ___ 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
- ___ Sagem
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 “eyespot,” 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 cressphontes
- ___ 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

- ___ Southern Dogface
Zerene cesonia
- ___ Cloudless Sulphur
Phoebis sennae

- Whites
Subfamily: *Pierinae*
- ___ Checkered White
Pontia protodice

Gossamer-Wing Butterflies

Family: *Lycaenidae*

These are small to medium-sized butterflies. The blue subfamily has blue on the upper wing surfaces. Most of the hairstreak subfamily has hair-like filaments coming off the hind wings. Gossamer-winged butterflies hold the wings over the back when at rest. Caterpillars are sluglike. Caterpillars of blues and hairstreaks possess honeydew glands, which provide food for ants. The ants, in exchange, protect the caterpillars from predators.

Hairstreaks

- Subfamily: *Theclinae*
- ___ Coral Hairstreak
Satyrrium titus
 - ___ Banded Hairstreak
Satyrrium calanus
 - ___ "Northern" Oak Hairstreak
Satyrrium favonius ontario
 - ___ Soapberry Hairstreak
Phaeostrymon alcestis
 - ___ "Olive" Juniper Hairstreak
Callophrys gryneus gryneus
 - ___ Red-banded Hairstreak
Calycopis cecrops
 - ___ Gray Hairstreak
Strymon melinus

Blues

- Subfamily: *Polyommatae*
- ___ Marine Blue
Leptotes marina
 - ___ Eastern Tailed-Blue
Cupido comyntas
 - ___ Summer Azure
Celastrina ladon neglecta
 - ___ Reakirt's Blue
Hemiargus isola

Brush-footed Butterflies

Family: *Nymphalidae*

Brush-footed butterflies are the largest and most diverse family. There are more species in this family than any other. Browns, oranges, yellows, and blacks are the most common colors. This family's unifying characteristic, except for the snouts, is the reduced forelegs of both the males and females. The host plants include many families, ranging from trees, shrubs, and vines to annuals. Caterpillars are usually spiny. Adults of some groups feed on nectar, while others never visit flowers but instead feed on sap, rotting fruit, carrion, or even dung.



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 andria

Satyrns

- Subfamily: *Satyrinae*
- ___ Northern Pearly-eye
Enodia anthedon
 - ___ Gemmed Satyr
Cyllopsis gemma
 - ___ Carolina Satyr
Hermempychia 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.

Observe from the sidelines.

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.

May 2009



Common Buckeye
Photograph © by Bill Adams