



# Butterflies of Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge

## How to Use This Checklist

The butterflies of Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge are mainly tropical, with many species occurring only as occasional migrants or transients from Mexico.

This checklist is arranged according to the North American Butterfly Association Checklist and English Names of North American Butterflies. Data for this checklist were compiled by Edward C. Knudson. Jeffrey Glassberg also commented on the list, and Mike Quinn made most final decisions for abundance codes. Recent taxonomic changes are indicated with the former taxon in parentheses.

Not enough is yet known about the lepidoptera (butterflies) of Santa Ana NWR to permit the inclusion of seasonal distribution, but in general, butterflies tend to be more abundant in the late summer and fall.

## Occurrence

The relative abundance or rarity of species is indicated by the table below. Please note that insect abundance can be highly variable especially in regions such as South Texas where prolonged droughts are often followed by widespread heavy rains.

- A - Abundant—Occurring year-round in large to very large numbers.
- C - Common—Occurring most of the year in moderate to occasionally large numbers.
- U - Uncommon—Seasonal, occurring in small to moderate numbers
- O - Occasional—Probably not present every year, but occasionally present in moderate numbers.
- R - Rare—Not usually present; when found, only in small numbers.
- X - Accidental—Recorded only once or twice, probably as a stray.

## 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).

- Pipevine Swallowtail *Battus philenor* C
- Polydamas Swallowtail *Battus polydamas* R
- Dark Kite-Swllwltl *Eurytides philolanus* X
- Black Swallowtail *Papilio polyxenes* U
- Thoas Swallowtail *Papilio thoas* R
- Giant Swallowtail *Papilio cressphontes* A
- Ornythion Swallowtail *Papilio ornythion* R
- Broad-banded Swllwltl *Papilio astyalus* R

## 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 drinking on damp earth, an activity referred to as “mud puddling.” Lyaside Sulphurs sometimes migrate in huge numbers.

### Whites

*Subfamily: Pierinae*

- Florida White *Appias drusilla* R
- Checkered White *Pontia protodice* C
- Cabbage White *Pieris rapae* R
- Great Southern White *Ascia monuste* C
- Giant White *Ganyra josephina* U
- Falcate Orangetip *Anthocharis midea* O

### Sulphurs

*Subfamily: Coliadinae*

- Orange Sulphur *Colias eurytheme* U
- Southern Dogface *Colias cesonia* C
- White Angled-Sulphur *Anteos clorinde* O
- Yellow Angled-Sulphur *Anteos maerula* O
- Cloudless Sulphur *Phoebis sennae* A
- Orange-barrd Sulphur *Phoebis philea* U
- Large Orange Sulphur *Phoebis agarithe* C
- Statira Sulphur *Phoebis statira* R
- Lyaside Sulphur *Kricogonia lyside* A
- Barred Yellow *Eurema दौरa* R
- Boisduval’s Yellow *Eurema boisduvaliana* R
- Mexican Yellow *Eurema mexicana* U
- Salome Yellow *Eurema salome* X
- Tailed Orange *Eurema proterpia* U
- Little Yellow *Eurema lisa* U
- Mimosa Yellow *Eurema nise* C
- Dina Yellow *Eurema dina* X
- Sleepy Orange *Eurema nicippe* C
- Dainty Sulphur *Nathalis iole* C

### Mimic-Whites

*Subfamily: Dismorphiinae*

- Costa-spttd Mimic-Wht *Enantia albania* X

## Gossamer-Wing Butterflies

*Family: Lycaenidae*

These are small to medium-sized butterflies. The blue subfamily has blue on the upper wing surfaces. 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*

- Strophius Hairstreak *Allosmaitia strophius* R
- Great Purple Hairstreak *Atlides halesus* U
- Gold-bordered Hairstreak *Rekoa palegon* X
- Marius Hairstreak *Rekoa marius* (= *spurina*) R
- Black Hairstreak *Ocavia ocrisia* X
- Sil.-bndd hrstrk *Chlorostrymon simaethis* U
- Clench’s Grnstrk *Cyanophrys miserabilis* R
- Goodson’s Grnstrk *Cyanophrys goodsoni* R
- Tropical Grnstrk *Cyanophrys herodotus* X
- Xami Hairstreak *Callophrys xami* R

- Aquamarine Hrstrk *Oenomaus ortygnus* X
- Gray Hairstreak *Strymon melinus* A
- Rd-cres. Scrub-Hrstrk *Strymon rufofusca* R
- Rd-lined Scrub-Hrstrk *Strymon bebrycia* R
- Yojoa Scrub-Hairstreak *Strymon yojoa* O
- White Scrub-Hairstreak *Strymon albata* R
- Lacey’s Scrub-Hairstreak *Strymon alea* R
- Mallow Scrub-Hrstrk *Strymon columella* C
- Tailless Scrub-Hairstreak *Strymon cestri* O
- Ruddy Hrstrk *Electrostrymon sangala* R
- Muted Hairstreak *Electrostrymon canus* X
- Dusky-blue Groundstrk *Calycopis isobeon* C
- Red-spotted Hairstreak *Tmolus echion* X
- Pearly-gray Hairstreak *Siderus tephraeus* X
- Clytie Ministreak *Ministrymon clytie* U
- Gray Ministreak *Ministrymon azia* R

### Blues

*Subfamily: Polyommatinae*

- Western Pygmy-Blue *Brephidium exilis* C
- Cassius Blue *Leptotes cassius* O
- Marine Blue *Leptotes marina* O
- Cyna Blue *Zizula cyna* R
- Ceraunus Blue *Hemiargus ceraunus* C
- Reakirt’s Blue *Hemiargus isola* C
- Eastern Tailed-Blue *Everes comyntas* R

### Metalmarks

*Family: Riodinidae*

This family of mostly small butterflies is closely related to the gossamer-winged butterflies. Many have silvery metallic markings paralleling the wing margins. Most are finely patterned with dark markings on an orange to brownish background. Tropical members of this family can be brilliantly patterned. Caterpillars are sluglike and usually feed on trees or shrubs. Adult metalmarks don’t wander, but instead perch near their host plants, generally on the underside of leaves.

- Fatal Metalmark *Calephelis nemesis* C
- Rnnd Metal. *Calephelis perditalis* C
- Rawson’s Metalmark *Calephelis rawsoni* X
- Red-bordered Metalmark *Caria ino* U
- Blue Metalmark *Lasaia sula* R
- Red-bordered Pixie *Melanis pixe* U
- Curve-winged Metalmark *Emesis emesis* R
- Falcate Metalmark *Emesis tenedia* R
- Nar.-wnged Mtlmrk *Apodemia multiplaga* X
- Walker’s Metalmark *Apodemia walkeri* R

## 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. Some field guides split this family into separate smaller families. Snouts have regular population explosions usually coincident with wide spread heavy rains ending a prolonged drought. Monarchs deserve special recognition as the world’s only insect to make a continent-wide migration, returning annually to their centralized overwintering location.

