

Butterfly Watching

Bird watching has always attracted early risers who will go out in any weather to see a bird. On the other hand, butterfly watching is for those of us who enjoy warm, sunny afternoons – the warmer and sunnier, the better! Take a butterfly walk or simply sit down in a flowery meadow and see what happens. Remember these hints:

Go Slow and Low – You'll be amazed at how close you can get to a butterfly. As you approach, stay low so your body doesn't make a huge silhouette against the sky. You'll also want to be sure your shadow doesn't fall on or near the butterfly.

Be Patient – Let the butterflies come to you or use binoculars designed for close-up focusing to bring them even closer.

Move Around – Visit a variety of habitats to see a variety of butterflies. Butterflies prefer open areas. Even forest butterflies stay in clearings, along forest edges, or on sunny paths.

You can find everything you need to know in the *Handbook for Butterfly Watchers* by Robert Michael Pyle.

Field Guides

We recommend checking out several field guides from the library to decide which one works best for you. *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies* features beautiful photographs, but the Little Golden Guide titled *Butterflies and Moths* might be better for beginners and kids. If you enjoy watching from a distance, you might try *Butterflies Through Binoculars: A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Eastern North America* by Jeffrey Glassberg.

Butterfly Gardening

If you can't go to the butterflies, bring the butterflies to your home. Plant native wildflowers that provide food for butterfly larvae and nectar for adult butterflies. Don't forget water. Visit the butterfly garden in front of the education center for a few ideas. Then, check out *Butterfly Gardening* by the Xerces Society or *The Butterfly Garden* by Mathew Tekulsky for more information.

Web Sites

Butterflies of Wisconsin. USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. 2006. Includes county lists for Wisconsin.
<www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/wi/toc.htm>

Wisconsin Butterflies. Mike Reese. 2006. <www.wisconsinbutterflies.org>

Wisconsin's Butterflies and Moths. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. 2004. Includes an *Online Field Guide to Rare Lepidoptera: Bogs and Barrens*.
<www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/invertebrates/butterflies_moths>



PUBL-PR-1502 2006

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Cover artwork by Lois Ehlert, 1987

Butterfly Checklist



Havenwoods State Forest

Observer _____

Date _____

Time _____

Weather _____

Butterfly Checklist

About 155 species of butterflies have been seen in Wisconsin. This booklet includes the 78 butterflies that butterfly watchers have recorded in Milwaukee County. Butterflies that staff and visitors have seen at Havenwoods are printed in **bold type**. Two butterflies on the list are non-native (NN) species.

Migrants and Strays

Of the 155 Wisconsin butterflies, only 118 are permanent residents. The others are either *migrants* or *strays*. The fifteen *migrants*, like the monarch, can't survive Wisconsin's winters. Each year or every few years, their populations are reestablished by butterflies migrating from the south. Twenty-two Wisconsin species are considered *strays*. These butterflies rarely wander into Wisconsin. Strays seen in Milwaukee County are listed on the inside back cover of this booklet.

Flight Time

The bars on the checklist indicate when you are most likely to see a particular butterfly in flight. Most butterflies are active and visible sometime between May and September. However, if you venture out on an unusually warm February day, you might be rewarded with the sight of a mourning cloak butterfly flitting about above the melting snow!

Abundance

Likely to see – You are likely to see these butterflies if you visit during their flight times on warm, sunny days **and** look in the right habitats.

Lucky to see – Consider yourself lucky if you see these butterflies! Be sure to visit the right habitat/s during flight times.

Unlikely to see – Sightings of these butterflies at Havenwoods are rare. Many of these butterflies are migrants that only appear every few years. Others have specific habitat or larval food requirements.

Habitat

The letter codes indicate the areas where you are most likely to find different butterflies.

W – Watery places like ponds, wetlands, and creeks.

G – Open grasslands or areas where there is more grass than there are woody plants.

T – Wooded areas or areas with an abundance of trees and shrubs.

C – Backyards, parks, vacant lots – just about every green place in an urban area.

Milwaukee County Sightings

There are a few other butterflies that have been recorded in Milwaukee County over the years. Most are strays that rarely arrive here. Others are butterflies that haven't been seen in Milwaukee County for years.

Pipevine Swallowtail – *Battus philenor*

Zebra Swallowtail – *Eurytides marcellus*

Spicebush Swallowtail – *Papilio troilus*

Giant Swallowtail – *Papilio cresphontes*

Sleepy Orange – *Eurema nicippe*

Gulf Fritillary – *Agraulis vanillae*

Poweshiek Skipperling – *Oarisma poweshiek* (endangered species)

Mulberry Wing – *Poanes massasoit*

Broad-winged Skipper – *Poanes viator*

Eufala Skipper – *Lerodea eufala*

Record Keeping

All visitors are invited to stop by the center and share your sightings. Experienced butterfly watchers are encouraged to submit field records. Check out the white board near the front desk for recent sightings of butterflies and other wildlife.

Notes

Havenwoods State Forest is an open green space in the city of Milwaukee. Our mission is to provide environmental education and recreational opportunities for people of all ages. Havenwoods also strives to maintain and enhance the quality of this natural habitat in the urban environment.

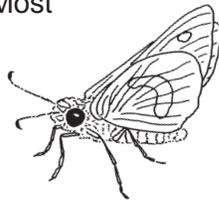
| Common Name – Scientific name | Migrant | May | June | July | August | September | Overwinter | Likely to see | Lucky to see | Unlikely to see | Habitat | |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|------|------|--------|-----------|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------|--|
| | | Flight Time | | | | | | | | | | |

Skippers – Family Hesperiiidae

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver-spotted Skipper – <i>Epagyreus clarus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Cloudywing – <i>Thorybes bathyllus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cloudywing – <i>Thorybes pylades</i> | | | | | | | | | | | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleepy Duskywing – <i>Erynnis brizo</i> | | | | | | | | | | | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Checkered Skipper – <i>Pyrgus communis</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Sootywing – <i>Pholisora catullus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Least Skipper – <i>Ancyloxypha numitor</i> | | | | | | | | | | | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> European Skipper (NN) – <i>Thymelicus lineola</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiery Skipper – <i>Hylephila phyleus</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peck's Skipper – <i>Polites peckius</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tawny-edged Skipper – <i>Polites themistocles</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crossline Skipper – <i>Polites origenes</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long Dash – <i>Polites mystic</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Broken Dash – <i>Wallengrenia egeremet</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little Glassywing – <i>Pompeius verna</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sachem – <i>Atalopedes campestris</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware Skipper – <i>Anatrytone logan</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hobomok Skipper – <i>Poanes hobomok</i> | | | | | | | | | | | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dion Skipper – <i>Euphyes dion</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two-spotted Skipper – <i>Euphyes bimacula</i> | | | | | | | | | | | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dun Skipper – <i>Euphyes vestris</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pepper and Salt Skipper – <i>Amblyscirtes hegon</i> | | | | | | | | | | | T |

Skippers

resemble moths with their thick, hairy bodies and short wings. However, their antennae end in hooked clubs. Most skippers are small and speedy, with a skipping flight. Skippers that are triangular and tawny tend to be grass feeders. Skippers succeed in many sorts of habitats and are often seen near flowers and mud.



Northern Broken Dash

| Common Name – Scientific name | Migrant | May | June | July | August | September | Overwinter | Likely to see | Lucky to see | Unlikely to see | Habitat |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|------|------|--------|-----------|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------|
| | | Flight Time | | | | | | | | | |

Swallowtails – Family Papilionidae

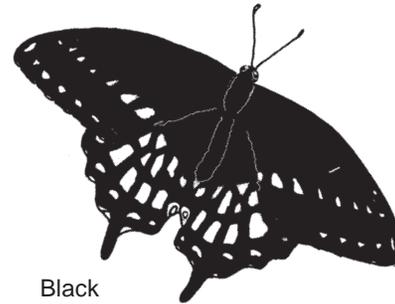
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Swallowtail – <i>Papilio polyxenes</i> | | | | | | | | | | | GC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Tiger Swallowtail – <i>Papilio glaucus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | GT |

Whites and Sulphurs – Family Pieridae

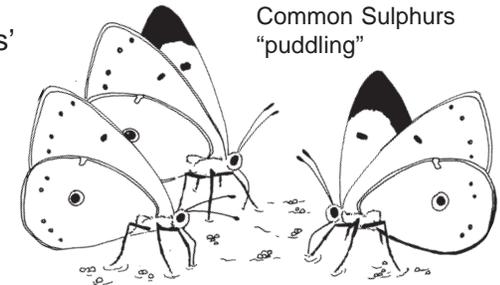
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Checkered White – <i>Pontia protodice</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabbage White (NN) – <i>Pieris rapae</i> | | | | | | | | | | | GC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clouded Sulphur – <i>Colias philodice</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orange Sulphur – <i>Colias eurytheme</i> | | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Dogface – <i>Zerene cesonia</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cloudless Sulphur – <i>Phoebis sennae</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little Yellow – <i>Eurema lisa</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dainty Sulphur – <i>Nathalis iole</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | G |

Swallowtails

are large, colorful butterflies with tails on their hindwings. The tails may help to distract hungry birds and protect the butterflies' bodies.



Black Swallowtail



Common Sulphurs "puddling"

Whites and Sulphurs

are just like you imagine – nearly all the members of this family are yellow, orange, or white! The butter-yellow color of some may have suggested the name *butterfly*. Look for members of this family around mud puddles.

| Common Name – Scientific name | Migrant | Flight Time | | | | | Likely to see | Lucky to see | Unlikely to see | Habitat |
|--|---------|-------------|------|--------|-----------|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------|
| | May | June | July | August | September | Overwinter | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Copper – <i>Lycaena dione</i> | | | ■ | | | | ■ | | | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coral Hairstreak – <i>Satyrrium titus</i> | | | | ■ | | | ■ | | | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banded Hairstreak – <i>Satyrrium calanus</i> | | | | ■ | | | | | ■ | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Striped Hairstreak – <i>Satyrrium liparops</i> | | | | ■ | | | | | ■ | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Hairstreak – <i>Strymon melinus</i> | ✓ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reakirt's Blue – <i>Hemiargus isola</i> | ✓ | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Tailed Blue – <i>Everes comyntas</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | GC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Azure – <i>Celastrina ladon lucia</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | ■ | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Azure – <i>Celastrina neglecta</i> | ✓ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | ■ | TC |

Coppers, Hairstreaks and Blues – Family Lycaenidae

- Gray Copper** – *Lycaena dione*
- Coral Hairstreak** – *Satyrrium titus*
- Banded Hairstreak** – *Satyrrium calanus*
- Striped Hairstreak** – *Satyrrium liparops*
- Gray Hairstreak** – *Strymon melinus*
- Reakirt's Blue** – *Hemiargus isola*
- Eastern Tailed Blue** – *Everes comyntas*
- Spring Azure** – *Celastrina ladon lucia*
- Summer Azure** – *Celastrina neglecta*



Eastern Tailed Blue

Coppers, Hairstreaks, and Blues

are small, fast-flying butterflies. Their gossamer wings tend to be metallic and iridescent.

Sketch an Unknown Butterfly

If you are having trouble identifying a butterfly, watch it closely for as long as you can. Then try to make a simple sketch of the butterfly and record as much information as possible. Consider the shape of the wings, number and location of spots, color, and size of the butterfly compared to known butterflies. Also note the habitat where you saw it and any unusual behaviors it displayed. Then check out a field guide!

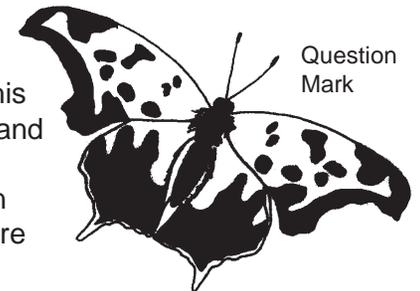
| Common Name – Scientific name | Migrant | Flight Time | | | | | Likely to see | Lucky to see | Unlikely to see | Habitat |
|---|---------|-------------|------|--------|-----------|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------|
| | May | June | July | August | September | Overwinter | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Snout – <i>Libytheana carinenta</i> | ✓ | | | | ■ | | | | ■ | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Variegated Fritillary – <i>Euptoieta claudia</i> | ✓ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Spangled Fritillary – <i>Speyeria cybele</i> | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aphrodite Fritillary – <i>Speyeria aphrodite</i> | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver-bordered Fritillary – <i>Boloria selene</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meadow Fritillary – <i>Boloria bellona</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silvery Checkerspot – <i>Chlosyne nycteis</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | GT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harris' Checkerspot – <i>Chlosyne harrisii</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pearl Crescent – <i>Phyciodes tharos</i> | | | | | ■ | | | | ■ | GT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore – <i>Euphydryas phaeton</i> | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Question Mark – <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | TC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Comma – <i>Polygonia comma</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Comma – <i>Polygonia progne</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compton Tortoise Shell – <i>Nymphalis vau-album</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Cloak – <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Milbert's Tortoise Shell – <i>Nymphalis milberti</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Lady – <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painted Lady – <i>Vanessa cardui</i> | ✓ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Admiral – <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> | ✓ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Buckeye – <i>Junonia coenia</i> | ✓ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Admiral – <i>Limenitis arthemis arthemis</i> | ✓ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-spotted Purple – <i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Viceroy – <i>Limenitis archippus</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eyed Brown – <i>Satyrodes eurydice</i> | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | W |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little Wood Satyr – <i>Megisto cymela</i> | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | T |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Wood Nymph – <i>Cercyonis pegala</i> | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monarch – <i>Danaus plexippus</i> | ✓ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | G |

Brush-Footed Butterflies – Family Nymphalidae

- American Snout** – *Libytheana carinenta*
- Variegated Fritillary** – *Euptoieta claudia*
- Great Spangled Fritillary** – *Speyeria cybele*
- Aphrodite Fritillary** – *Speyeria aphrodite*
- Silver-bordered Fritillary** – *Boloria selene*
- Meadow Fritillary** – *Boloria bellona*
- Silvery Checkerspot** – *Chlosyne nycteis*
- Harris' Checkerspot** – *Chlosyne harrisii*
- Pearl Crescent** – *Phyciodes tharos*
- Baltimore** – *Euphydryas phaeton*
- Question Mark** – *Polygonia interrogationis*
- Eastern Comma** – *Polygonia comma*
- Gray Comma** – *Polygonia progne*
- Compton Tortoise Shell** – *Nymphalis vau-album*
- Mourning Cloak** – *Nymphalis antiopa*
- Milbert's Tortoise Shell** – *Nymphalis milberti*
- American Lady** – *Vanessa virginiensis*
- Painted Lady** – *Vanessa cardui*
- Red Admiral** – *Vanessa atalanta*
- Common Buckeye** – *Junonia coenia*
- White Admiral** – *Limenitis arthemis arthemis*
- Red-spotted Purple** – *Limenitis arthemis astyanax*
- Viceroy** – *Limenitis archippus*
- Eyed Brown** – *Satyrodes eurydice*
- Little Wood Satyr** – *Megisto cymela*
- Common Wood Nymph** – *Cercyonis pegala*
- Monarch** – *Danaus plexippus*

Brush-footed Butterflies

are the largest family of butterflies. This family includes butterflies of all sizes and colors; however, most are bright and colorful. The one thing they all have in common is their tiny forelegs – they are hairy and useless for walking.



Question Mark