

In addition to entertaining us with their bright colors and interesting life histories, butterflies serve as easily observed indicators of the biotic diversity and the true degree of unaltered natural environment retained in any local area. This is due to their attachment to an array of specialized host plants and to their notable sensitivity to environmental disturbances and introduced chemical agents during the larval stage. Thus, the variety of butterfly species recorded from a local survey can contribute to an environmental understanding, and the survey activity can offer a pleasant pastime for sunny spring and summer days. This checklist is provided to aid in this endeavor by summarizing the known diversity and biological data on butterfly species at the county level. The checklist follows and provides an update to Fales & Smith (1989), "A Check-list of the Skippers and Butterflies of Howard County, Maryland," *The Maryland Naturalist*, Vol. 33, No. 1-2, p-p. 30-34. For identifying features, the user is advised to consult the Peterson series guide by Opler & Malikul, the Butterflies through Binoculars guides by Glassberg, or the general North American butterfly guide by Brock & Kaufman.

Especially notable butterfly occurrence areas in Howard County include Patapsco State Park (Avalon, Hollofield, Daniels & Henryton Road areas), all county parks (e.g., Centennial, Meadowbrook, and Schooley Mill), the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, and other Middle Patuxent River parkland and open space areas (Kindler, Gorman, & Savage), county garden rental plots, and many local and accessible powerline rights-of-way throughout the county.

The flight period column in the checklist represents typical rather than absolute appearance times and assumes the following abbreviations: E - first 10-day period; M - middle 10-day period; and L - last 10-day period of the month.

The Occurrence Levels (OL) in the checklist indicate the number of specimens likely to be seen on a single visit to the species' habitat at the peak time of the adult brood population during the flight period.

- A - Abundant 20 or more
- C - Common 3 to 20
- U - Uncommon 0 to 3
- R - Rare rarely seen*
- E - Extirpated ... possibly no longer in Howard County*

*If rare or extirpated species are seen in the county, please contact Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com.

SPECIES	OL	FLIGHT PERIOD	HABITAT	TYPICALLY VISITS	LARVAL HOST PLANTS
Spread-winged Skippers					
Silver-spotted Skipper	C	May to Sep	Open woods, fields & gardens	Variety of flowers	Locusts, tick trefoils, wisteria
Long-tailed Skipper	R	Aug-Sep	Gardens, open roadsides	Variety of flowers	Beans, legume vines
Hoary Edge	R	M-Jun to E-Jul	Fields & forest edges	Red clover, milkweed	Tick trefoils
Southern Cloudywing	R	M-May to M-Jun, E-Aug	Dry fields at woods edges	Indian hemp (dogbane)	Tick trefoils, bush clover
Northern Cloudywing	U	M-Jun to E-Jul	Dry fields at woods edges	Indian hemp (dogbane)	Tick trefoils, bush clover
Hayhurst's Scallopwing	R	L-Jul to M-Aug	Woods edges along streams	Burdock	Lamb's quarters
Dreamy Duskywing	R	E-May to E-Jun	Dry fields & woods trails	Mud puddles	Willows, poplars, aspens
Sleepy Duskywing	R	M-Apr to E-May	Woods trails & edges	Mud puddles	Scrub oak
Juvenal's Duskywing	C	M-Apr to L-May	Woods trails & edges	mud puddles	Red oaks, white oaks
Horace's Duskywing	C	L-Apr to E-Sep	Woods (May), marshes (Jul)	Buttonbush	Red oaks, white oaks
Wild Indigo Duskywing	C	Apr, Jun & Aug-E-Sep	Open areas, powerline cuts	Variety of flowers	Wild indigo & crown vetch
Common Checkered-Skipper	U	E-May to E-Jun, L-Aug to E-Oct	Open, weedy areas	White clover	Mallows, hollyhocks
Common Sootywing	U	May to Aug	Gardens & fields	White sweet clover	Lamb's quarters
Grass-Skippers					
Swarthy Skipper	U	Jun, Aug & Sep	Dry fields with broomsedge	Low grassblades	Little bluestem beardgrass
Clouded Skipper	R	L-Aug & Sep	Brushy wet meadows	New York ironweed	Woolly beardgrass
Least Skipper	C	L-May to E-Oct	Grassy stream edges	Broad grass blades	Bluegrass, rice cutgrass
European Skipper	R	M to L-Jun	Fields with tall grass	Purple vetch	Timothy grass
Fiery Skipper	U	L-Aug to M-Sep	Marshy areas	Tickseed sunflower	Crabgrass, Bermuda grass
Leonard's Skipper	E	E-Sep	Barrens areas	Blazing star	Bluestem beardgrass
Peck's Skipper	C	May to Jun, L-Jul to Sep	Wet Meadows	New York Ironweed	Rice cutgrass
Tawny-edged Skipper	U	L-May & Aug	Wet Meadows	New York Ironweed	Panic grasses
Crossline Skipper	C	Jun -Jul, M-Aug to Sep	Wet meadows, dry hillsides	Swamp milkweed	Purpletop grass
Southern Broken-Dash	U	L-May to Jun, Aug	Weedy fields	Pea vine, composites	Paspalum, large crabgrass
Northern Broken-Dash	U	M-Jun to E-Aug	Weedy fields	Indian hemp, milkweed	Panic grasses
Little Glassywing	A	L-May-Jun, L-Jul to Sep	Wet meadows & woods edges	New York Ironweed	Purpletop grass
Sachem	A	M-Jun thru Sep	Lawns, fields, & marshes	Tickseed sunflower	Crabgrass, Bermuda grass
Delaware Skipper	E	M-Jul	Marshes near dry fields	Common milkweed	Little bluestem beardgrass
Mulberry Wing	R	E to M-Jul	Interiors of sedge marshes	Swamp milkweed	Tussock sedge
Hobomok Skipper	U	L-May to M-Jun	Woods trails & edges	Blackberry blossoms	Panic grass, bluegrass
Zabulon Skipper	C	L-May to Jun, Aug	Woods trails & edges	Leaf & branch tips	Purpletop grass, lovegrass
Broad-winged Skipper	R	Jul	Near ponds with phragmites	Milkweeds, Can. thistle	Phragmites, wild rice, mrsh millet
Black Dash	E	L-Jun to E-Jul	Interiors of sedge marshes	Swamp milkweed	Tussock sedge
Dun Skipper	U	M-Jun to M-Jul, Aug	Marsh edges	Common milkweed	Sedges, grasses
Dusted Skipper	R	L-May	Dry fields with beardgrass	Low grassblades	Little bluestem beardgrass
Common Roadside-Skipper	E	L-May & L-Jul	Dry, grassy woods clearings	Blackberry blossoms	Bluegrass, wild oats, bentgrass
Ocola Skipper	R	L-Aug, Sep	Wet meadows	New York ironweed	Grasses
Swallowtails					
Pipevine Swallowtail	U	L-Jun, L-Jul & E-Sep	Fields & marshes near woods	Swamp milkweed	Dutchman's Pipe, Va. snakeroot
Zebra Swallowtail	U	L-Apr & E-Jul	River edges	Highbush blueberry	Pawpaw
Black Swallowtail	U	May thru Aug	Open, weedy fields & marshes	Common milkweed	Queen Anne's lace, parsley
Giant Swallowtail	R	L-Aug to E-Sep	Gardens	Gardens flowers	Common Rue, wafer ash
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	C/A	E-May, L-Jul to E-Sep	Fields & gardens	Joe-Pye weed, thistles	Tulip popular & wild cherry
Spicebush Swallowtail	C	E-May to E-Sep	Woods trails, edges & gardens	Joe-Pye weed, thistles	Spicebush & saffron
Whites & Sulphurs					
Checkered White	R	L-Jun & L-Aug	Trails in open weedy areas	White clover	Peppergrass, shepherd's purse
Cabbage White	A	L-Mar thru Oct	Fields & woods trails	Canada thistle	Crucifers (mustards & cabbage)
Falcate Orangetip	U	L-Apr to E-May	Open woods	Mustards	Rock cress
Clouded Sulphur	C	E-Apr thru E-Nov	Open woods, clover fields	Clover blossoms	Clovers
Orange Sulphur	C/A	L-Apr thru E-Nov	Open fields, alfalfa fields	Red clover	Covers & vetches
Cloudless Sulphur	U	L-Aug-M-Sep	Open fields	Sennas, partridge pea	Sennas

SPECIES	OL	FLIGHT PERIOD	HABITAT	TYPICALLY VISITS	LARVAL HOST PLANTS
Little Yellow	U/R	L-Aug-E-Oct	Sandy fields & hillsides	Sennas, partridge pea	Sennas (esp wild wensitive plt)
Sleepy Orange	U/R	E-Aug-L-Sep	Field edges and weedy areas	Wild senna	Wild senna
Dainty Sulphur	R	L-Oct	Dry weedy fields, powerlines	Low flowers	Green carpetweed
Gossamer-wings					
Harvester	R	Jun & Aug	Wet, bushy woods trails	Mud puddles near alders	Larvae feed on woolly aphids
American Copper	U	Jun thru Aug	Weedy, grassy fields	White clover	Sheep sorrel
Bronze Copper	R/E	L-Jul	Marshes & wet meadows	Indian hemp (dogbane)	Water dock & curled dock
Coral Hairstreak	R	L-Jun	Old fields, powerline cuts	Butterflyweed	Wild cherry, chokeberry
Banded Hairstreak	U	M to L-Jun	Woods trails & edges	Indian hemp, milkweed	Various oaks
Striped Hairstreak	R	L-Jun	Swamp & marsh edges	Indian hemp, N.J. tea	Blueberry, hawthorn
Red-banded Hairstreak	U	L-May & L-Jul-Sep	Woods edges, brushy areas	Leaf tips, Indian hemp	Fallen leaves of sumacs & oaks
Juniper Hairstreak	R	L-Apr & M-Jul	Mature red cedar groves	Red cedar treetops	Red cedar
Brown Elfin	R	L-Apr	Woods trails & edges	Laurel leaves	Huckleberry
Eastern Pine Elfin	R	L-Apr to E-Jun	Open scrub pine groves	Pussytoes	Various hard pines
Northern Oak Hairstreak	R	L-May	Oak woodlands & edges	Indian hemp (dogbane)	Scrub oak, post oak
White M Hairstreak	R	L-Apr, Aug-Sep	Woods clearings & edges	Lance-leaved goldenrod	Oaks
Gray Hairstreak	C	L-Apr to E-Oct	Open fields & roadsides	White clover, trefoils	Tick trefoil, vetch, clovers
Eastern Tailed-Blue	A	L-Apr to E-Oct	Open fields & roadsides	White clover, trefoils	Tick trefoils, clovers
Spring Azure	U	E-Apr to E-May	Woods trails & edges	Mud puddles	Dogwood, wild cherry
Summer Azure	C	L-May thru E-Oct	Woods trails & edges	Mud puddles	Viburnum, wingstem
Appalachian Azure	E	E to M-May	Steep wooded valleys	Mud puddles, leaf tips	Black cohosh
Brushfoots					
American Snout	R	E-Jul-M-Sep	Roadsides, woods edges	Mud puddles	Hackberry
Variagated Fritillary	C	Aug to M-Oct	Dry fields & gardens	Red clover, pansies	Violets & pansies
Great Spangled Fritillary	C	M-Jun to E-Sep	Fields & gardens	Milkweeds, thistles	Yellow & blue violets
Regal Fritillary	E	L-Jun to L-Jul	Dry, tall grassy meadows	Butterflyweed, thistles	Birdfoot & arrow-leaved violets
Silver-bordered Fritillary	E	Jun & L-Aug	Tall woody wet meadows	Indian hemp, spearmint	Marsh violets
Meadow Fritillary	U	Apr, Jun & E-Sep	Grassy wet meadows	Indian hemp, spearmint	Woolly blue violets
Silvery Checkerspot	U	L-Jun-Jul, L-Aug-Sep	Woods trails along rivers	Sunflower	Wingstem & wild sunflower
Pearl Crescent	A	E-May to E-Nov	Fields & gardens	Butterflyweed, milkweed	Various asters
Baltimore Checkerspot	R	M-Jun	Interiors of marshes	Grassblades, daisies	Turtlehead
Question Mark	U	Apr, Jun & E-Sep	Woods, roads	Rotting fruit & sap	Nettles, elm, hackberry
Eastern Comma	U	Apr, Jun, L-Jul thru Sep	Woods, roads	Rotting fruit & sap	Nettles, elm, hops
Mourning Cloak	U	E-Apr, Jun & Sep	Woods, roads	Rotting fruit & sap	Willow, elm, cottonwood
American Lady	C	L-Apr thru Sep	Weedy fields	Milkweed, Indian hemp	Everlasting & pussytoes
Painted Lady	C	L-Apr, Jun to Sep	Weedy fields	Thistles, milkweed	Thistles, mallows
Red Admiral	C	L-May to E-Sep	Woods trails & edges	Joe-Pye weed	Nettles
Common Buckeye	C	L-May thru Oct	Dry weedy fields	Lance-leaved goldenrod	Plantain, foxglove
Red-spotted Purple	C	L-May to M-Sep	Wet woods roads	Wet spots, rotting fruit	Wild cherry, poplar, aspen
Viceroy	U	L-May to M-Sep	Pond & stream edges	Willow leaves	Willows & poplars
Hackberry Emperor	R	M-Jun & M-Aug	Woods trails & edges	Wet spots	Hackberry
Tawny Emperor	R	M-Jun & M-Aug	Woods trails & edges	Wet spots	Hackberry
Satyrs					
Northern Pearly-eye	U	L-May, L-Jul to L-Aug	Damp, grassy woods trials	Mud puddles	Jpnse. Stiltgrass, other grasses
Appalachian Brown	C	Jun & Aug	Interiors of bushy marshes	Alder leaves	Sedges
Little Wood-Satyr	C	L-May thru Jun	Brushy woods edges	Low shiny leaves	Orchard grass
Common Wood-Nymph	U	Jul & Aug	Dry grassy fields near woods	Tree trunks	Grasses, including purpletop
Milkweed Butterflies					
Monarch	C	May to M-Oct	Open meadows	Milkweed & goldenrods	Milkweed

© 5/1993; revised 2/2000, 2/2011, 3/2014, 8/2016.

THE BUTTERFLIES OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

A Biological Summary and Checklist



The Howard County Chapter
of the
Maryland Ornithological Society

Richard H. Smith, Jr.