



Butterfly Checklist



Zebra Heliconian Art work by Laura Schrier-Coe and Ron Nuehring

Everglades National Park’s subtropical climate promotes a great diversity of plants and animals. Butterflies are one of the most beautiful examples of this biodiversity. Their name means “wings with scales,” as millions of shingle-like overlapping scales give butterfly wings their often-brilliant colors.

The average lifespan of a butterfly is very short, usually lasting only about one month. Within this short lifespan are four distinct stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult. Females typically lay their eggs on specific host plants that will provide food when the caterpillars hatch. Later, the adults rely on special nectar plants for their food supply.

Over 90 butterflies have been observed in Everglades National Park—more than half of all known to exist in the state of Florida.

The park’s varied habitats are one reason for this abundance. Butterflies can be found in the pinelands, hardwood hammocks, sawgrass prairies, cypress forests, mangrove estuaries, coastal beaches, and disturbed areas like campgrounds and roadsides. Some butterflies are found in several of these areas, others are limited to one specific habitat. Learning the preferred habitat(s) of different butterflies can make it easier to observe and identify them.

Time of day and time of year also affect what you might see. Butterflies are cold-blooded, so they need to warm up before they start moving. In the summer months they are active earlier in the day than in the winter. In south Florida butterflies are seen all year long, but are most abundant from June through September.

Habitat loss, salt water intrusion, natural disasters, and the use of pesticides and herbicides are major threats to butterflies. You can help encourage these delicate creatures by landscaping with native plants, especially butterfly nectar and host plants.

The following list is current as of December 2008.

Please remember that collecting any wildlife or plants in Everglades National Park is strictly prohibited.

Checklist Key—Abundance
C = common--seen in good numbers in suitable habitat; often in multiple habitats
U = uncommon--occasionally seen
R = rare--seen in small numbers, often in restricted habitats
S = stray--appear sporadically and unpredictably, often related to storms
X = extirpated--formerly in Everglades National Park; now extinct in the park

Name	Abundance
Swallowtails	
Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	C
Giant Swallowtail <i>Heraclides (Papilio) cresphontes</i>	C
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail <i>Pterourus (Papilio) glaucus</i>	S
Spicebush Swallowtail <i>Pterourus (Papilio) troilus</i>	R
Palamedes Swallowtail <i>Pterourus (Papilio) palamedes</i>	C
Whites & Sulphurs	
Florida White <i>Appias drusilla neumogenii</i>	R
Checkered White <i>Pontia (Pieris) protodice</i>	R
Great Southern White <i>Ascia monuste</i>	C
Southern Dogface <i>Zerene (Colias) cesonia</i>	S
Cloudless Sulphur <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	C
Orange-barred Sulphur <i>Phoebis philea</i>	R

Name	Abundance
Large Orange Sulphur <i>Phoebis agarithe</i>	C
Lyside Sulphur <i>Kricogonia lyside</i>	S
Barred Yellow <i>Eurema daira</i>	C
Little Yellow <i>Eurema (Pyrisitia) lisa</i>	C
Mimosa Yellow <i>Eurema (Pyrisitia) nise</i>	S
Sleepy Orange <i>Eurema (Abaeis) nicippe</i>	R
Dainty Sulphur <i>Nathalis iole</i>	U
Gossamer-Wings	
Atala <i>Eumaeus atala florida</i>	X
Silver-banded Hairstreak <i>Chlorostymon simaethis</i>	R
Oak Hairstreak <i>Fixsenia (Satyrium) favonius</i>	S
White M Hairstreak <i>Parrhasius m-album</i>	S
Gray Hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i>	C
Martial Scrub-Hairstreak <i>Strymon martialis</i>	R
Bartram’s Scrub-Hairstreak <i>Strymon acis bartrami</i>	R
Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak <i>Strymon istapa (columella)</i>	C
Fulvous Hairstreak <i>Electrostrymon angelia</i>	R
Red-banded Hairstreak <i>Calycopis cecrops</i>	C

	Name	Abundance
	Gray Ministreak <i>Ministrymon azia</i>	S
	Eastern Pygmy Blue <i>Brephidium isophthalma</i>	C
	Cassius Blue <i>Leptotes cassius</i>	C
	Miami Blue <i>Hemiargus (Cyclargus) thomasi bethunebakeri</i>	X
	Ceraunus Blue <i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>	C
Metalmarks		
	Little Metalmark <i>Calephelis virginienis</i>	C
Brushfoots		
	Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	C
	Julia Heliconian <i>Dryas lulia</i>	C
	Zebra Heliconian <i>Heliconius charithonia</i>	C
	Variiegated Fritillary <i>Euptoieta claudia</i>	C
	Cuban Crescent <i>Anthanassa (Phyciodes) frisia</i>	R
	Phaon Crescent <i>Phyciodes phaon</i>	C
	Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	C
	American Lady <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	R
	Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	S
	Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	R
	Mimic <i>Hypolimnas misippus</i>	S

	Name	Abundance
	Common Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia</i>	C
	Mangrove Buckeye <i>Junonia evarete</i>	C
	Tropical Buckeye <i>Junonia genoveva</i>	R
	White Peacock <i>Anartia jatrophae</i>	C
	Malachite <i>Siproeta stelenes</i>	S
	Viceroy <i>Basilarchia (Limenitis) archippus</i>	C
	Dingy Purplewing <i>Eunica monima</i>	S
	Florida Purplewing <i>Eunica tatila tatilista</i>	X
	Ruddy Daggerwing <i>Marpesia petreus</i>	C
	Florida Leafwing <i>Anaea troglodyta floralidis</i>	R
	Carolina Satyr <i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i>	R
	Georgia Satyr <i>Neonympha areolata</i>	C
	Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	C
	Queen <i>Danaus gilippus</i>	C
	Soldier <i>Danaus eresimus</i>	C
Skippers		
	Mangrove Skipper <i>Phocides pigmalion</i>	C
	Zestos Skipper <i>Epargyreus zestos</i>	X
	Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	S

	Name	Abundance
	Hammock Skipper <i>Polygonus leo</i>	R
	Long-tailed Skipper <i>Urbanus proteus</i>	C
	Dorantes Longtail <i>Urbanus dorantes</i>	C
	Hayhurst's Scallopwing <i>Staphylus hayhurstii</i>	R
	Florida Duskywing <i>Ephyriades brunneus floridensis</i>	C
	Horace's Duskywing <i>Erynnis horatius</i>	R
	Zarucco Duskywing <i>Erynnis zarucco</i>	R
	Funereal Duskywing <i>Erynnis funeralis</i>	S
	Tropical Checkered-Skipper <i>Pyrgus oileus</i>	C
	Neamathla Skipper <i>Nastra neamathla</i>	R
	Three-spotted Skipper <i>Cymaenes tripunctus</i>	C
	Clouded Skipper <i>Lerema accius</i>	C
	Least Skipper <i>Ancyloxypha numitor</i>	C
	Southern Skipperling <i>Copaeodes minimus</i>	R
	Fiery Skipper <i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	C
	Rockland Grass (Meske's) Skipper <i>Hesperia meskei pinocayo</i>	X
	Baracoa Skipper <i>Polites baracoa</i>	C
	Whirlabout <i>Polites vibex</i>	R

	Name	Abundance
	Southern Broken-Dash <i>Wallengrenia otho</i>	C
	Sachem <i>Atalopedes campestris</i>	C
	Delaware Skipper <i>Anatrytone logan</i>	C
	Byssus Skipper <i>Problema byssus</i>	R
	Aaron's Skipper <i>Poanes aaroni</i>	R
	Palmetto Skipper <i>Euphyes arpa</i>	R
	Palatka Skipper <i>Euphyes pilatka</i>	C
	Berry's Skipper <i>Euphyes berryi</i>	R
	Monk Skipper <i>Asbolis capucinus</i>	C
	Eufala Skipper <i>Lerodea eufala</i>	U
	Twin-spot Skipper <i>Oligoria maculata</i>	C
	Brazilian Skipper <i>Calpododes ethlius</i>	C
	Salt Marsh Skipper <i>Panoquina panoquin</i>	R
	Obscure Skipper <i>Panoquina panoquinoides</i>	U
	Ocola Skipper <i>Panoquina ocola</i>	C

This species list is based largely on data collected by Mark and Holly Salvato, with the assistance of the Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, on the abundance and distribution of butterflies throughout the Everglades over the past several years.