

Butterflies of St. Charles County, Missouri



A list of all 84 recorded species of butterflies that occur in St. Charles County along with their caterpillar host plants and preferred adult food source data. Information taken from [Butterflies and Moths of North America.org](http://ButterfliesandMothsofNorthAmerica.org)

Hesperiidae Skippers

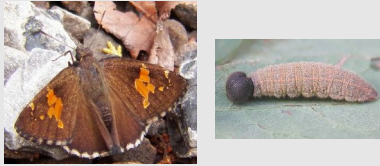
Silver-spotted Skipper
Epargyreus clarus



Caterpillar Hosts: Many woody legumes including black locust (*Robinia pseudacacia*), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) and false indigo (*Amorpha* species). Also selected herbaceous legumes such as *Glycyrrhiza* species.

Adult Food: The Silver-spotted Skipper almost never visits yellow flowers but favors blue, red, pink, purple, and sometimes white and cream-colored ones. These include everlasting pea, common milkweed, red clover, buttonbush, blazing star, and thistles.

Hoary Edge
Achalarus lyciades



Caterpillar Hosts: Beggar's ticks (*Desmodium*); occasionally false indigo (*Baptisia*) and bush clover (*Lespedeza*); all in the pea family (*Fabaceae*).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers of common milkweed, dogbane, buttonbush, Japanese honeysuckle, and New Jersey tea.

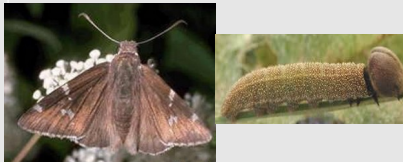
Northern Cloudywing
Thorybes pylades



Caterpillar Hosts: Various plants in the pea family (*Fabaceae*) including beggar's ticks (*Desmodium*), bush clover (*Lespedeza*), clover (*Trifolium*), lotus (*Hosackia*), and others.

Adult Food: Usually nectar from blue, purple, pink, or white flowers including dogbane, selfheal, crown vetch, Japanese honeysuckle, thistles, common milkweed, Deptford pink, hoary vervain, and others.

Southern Cloudywing
Thorybes bathyllus



Caterpillar Hosts: Various plants in the pea family (*Fabaceae*) including beggar's ticks (*Desmodium*), bush clover (*Lespedeza*), clover (*Trifolium*), milkvetch (*Astragalus*), fuzzybean (*Strophostyles*), and wild bean (*Glycine*).

Adult Food: Usually nectar from blue, purple, pink, or white flowers including dogbane, selfheal, crown vetch, Japanese honeysuckle, thistles, common milkweed, and others.

Hayhurst's Scallopwing
Staphylus hayhurstii



Caterpillar Hosts: Lambsquarters (*Chenopodium*) in the goosefoot family (*Chenopodiaceae*), and occasionally chaff flower (*Alternanthera*) in the pigweed family (*Amaranthaceae*).

Adult Food: Nectar from marigold, knotweed, spearmint, wild marjoram, cucumber, dogbane, white sweet clover, and white clover.

Hesperiidae Skippers

Sleepy Duskywing
Erynnis brizo



Caterpillar Hosts: Scrub oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*) and other shrubby oaks.

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers of heaths (*Ericaceae*) including wild azalea and blueberry; also blackberry and dandelion.

Juvenal's Duskywing
Erynnis juvenalis



Caterpillar Hosts: Tree and shrub oaks (*Quercus* species).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers of winter cress, dandelion, wild plum, wisteria, blueberry, Carolina vetch, redbud, and lilac.

Horace's Duskywing
Erynnis horatius



Caterpillar Hosts: Both red and white oaks including willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), northern red oak (*Q. velutina*), scrub oak (*Q. ilicifolia*), water oak (*Q. nigra*), post oak (*Q. stellata*), and live oak (*Q. virginiana*).

Adult Food: Horace's Duskywing visits flower up to about 4.5 feet tall including dogbane, buttonbush, sneezeweed, goldenrod, peppermint, boneset, and winter cress.

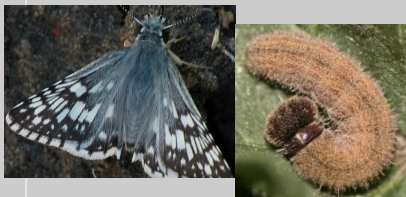
Mottled Duskywing
Erynnis martialis



Caterpillar Hosts: Wild lilacs including New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) and redroot (*Ceanothus herbaceus* var. *pubescens*) in the buckthorn family (*Rhamnaceae*).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers of bush houstonia, gromwell, hoary vervain, and other plants.

Common Checkered-Skipper
Pyrgus communis



Caterpillar Hosts: Several plants in the mallow family (*Malvaceae*) including globemallows (*Sphaeralcea*), mallow (*Malva*), hollyhock (*Althaea*), alkali mallows (*Sida*), velvet-leaf (*Abutilon*), and poppy mallow (*Callirhoe*).

Adult Food: Nectar from white-flowered composites including shepherd's needles, fleabane, and asters; also red clover, knapweed, beggar's ticks, and many others.

Hesperiidae Skippers

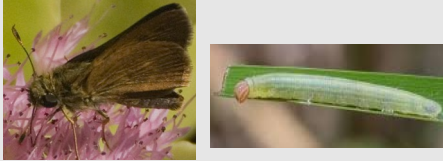
Common Sootywing
Pholisora catullus



Lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*), amaranths (*Amaranthus*), and cockscomb (*Celosia*).

Adult Food: Nectar from many flowers including dogbane, marjoram, oxalis, white clover, common milkweed, peppermint, cucumber, and melon.

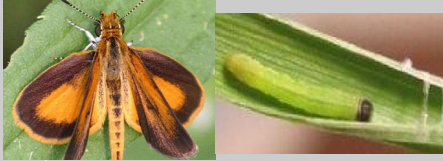
Swarthy Skipper
Nastra Iherminier



Caterpillar Hosts: Little bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*).

Adult Food: Nectar from low-growing flowers including selfheal, red clover, tick trefoil, purple vetch, New Jersey tea, and peppermint.

Least Skipper
Ancyloxypha numitor



Caterpillar Hosts: Various grasses including marsh millet (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*), rice cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*), and cultivated rice (*Oryza sativa*).

Adult Food: Flower nectar from low growing plants such as wood sorrel, swamp verbena, pickerelweed, chickory, and white clover.

Fiery Skipper
Hylephila phyleus



Caterpillar Hosts: Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), crabgrass (*Digitaria*), St. Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*), and other grasses.

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers of a variety of plants including sweet pepperbush, swamp milkweed, asters, sneezeweed, knapweed, ironweed, and thistles.

Sachem
Atalopedes campestris



Caterpillar Hosts: Grasses including Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), crabgrass (*Digitaria*), St. Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*), and goosegrass (*Eleusine*).

Adult Food: Nectar from many flowers including swamp and common milkweeds, buttonbush, dogbane, peppermint, red clover, tickseed sunflower, thistles, New York ironweed, marigold, and asters.

Hesperiidae Skippers

Peck's Skipper
Polites peckius



Caterpillar Hosts: Rice cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*); probably bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and others.

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers including red clover, purple vetch, thistles, selfheal, New York ironweed, blue vervain, common milkweed, swamp milkweed, dogbane, and New Jersey tea.

Tawny-edged Skipper
Polites themistocles



Panic grasses (*Panicum*), slender crabgrass (*Digitaria filiformis*), and bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers including alfalfa, red clover, dogbane, shrub houstonia, purple coneflower, thistles, and chicory.

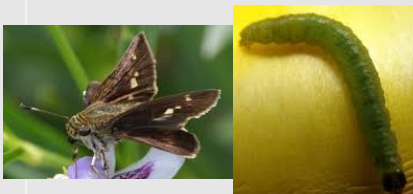
Northern Broken-Dash
Wallengrenia egeremet



Panic grasses including deertongue grass (*Panicum clandestinum*) and *P. dichotomum*.

Adult Food: Nectar from white, pink, or purple flowers is favored including dogbane, red clover, New Jersey tea, and sweet pepperbush. Many other flowers are visited.

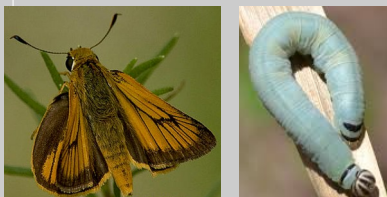
Little Glassywing
Pompeius verna



Caterpillar Hosts: Purpletop (*Tridens flavus*).

Adult Food: Nectar from white, pink, and purple flowers is preferred, including dogbane, selfheal, peppermint, joe-pye weed, and common and swamp milkweeds. Yellow flowers are visited when others are unavailable.

Delaware Skipper
Anatrytone logan



Caterpillar Hosts: Various grasses including big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), and wooly beard grass (*Erianthus divaricatus*).

Adult Food: Nectar from pink and white flowers including swamp and common milkweeds, shrub houstonia, mountain mint, marsh fleabane, sweet pepperbush, buttonbush, thistles, and pickerelweed.

Hesperiidae Skippers

Hobomok Skipper
Poanes hobomok



Caterpillar Hosts: Various grasses including panic grasses (*Panicum*) and bluegrasses (*Poa*).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers including common milkweed, henbit, viper's bugloss, and blackberry.

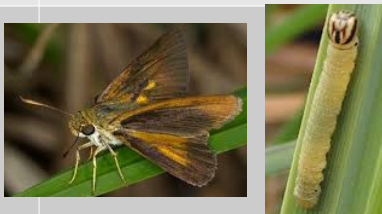
Zabulon Skipper
Poanes zabulon



Caterpillar Hosts: Grasses including lovegrass (*Eragrostis*), purpletop (*Tridens*), bluegrass (*Poa*), wheatgrass (*Agropyron*), orchardgrass (*Dactylis*), wildrye (*Elymus*), and bentgrass (*Agrostis*).

Adult Food: Nectar from a variety of flowers including the exotics Japanese honeysuckle, red clover, everlasting pea, and selfheal; and the natives blackberry, purple vetch, common milkweed, buttonbush, joe-pye weed, and thistles.

Dion Skipper
Euphyes dion



Caterpillar Hosts: Various sedges including woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), hairy sedge (*Carex lacustris*), and shoreline sedge (*Carex hyalinolepis*).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers of pickernelweed, sneezeweed, buttonbush, Alsike clover, and others.

Dukes' Skipper
Euphyes dukesi

RARE!!!!



Caterpillar Hosts: Sedges including hairy sedge (*Carex lacustris*) and shoreline sedge (*Carex hyalinolepis*).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers of pickernelweed, sneezeweed, hibiscus, and blue mistflower.

Dun Skipper
Euphyes vestris



Caterpillar Hosts: Various sedges including chufa flatsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*) and sun sedge (*Carex heliophila*).

Adult Food: Nectar from white, pink, or purple flowers including common milkweed, purple vetch, selfheal, peppermint, dogbane, New Jersey tea, and viper's bugloss.

Hesperiidae Skippers

Common Roadside-Skipper

Amblyscirtes vialis



Caterpillar Hosts: Various grasses including wild oats (*Avena*), bent grass (*Agrostis*), bluegrass (*Poa*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and Indian woodoats grass (*Chasmanthium latifolia*).

Adult Food: These skippers prefer nectar from low-growing blue flowers including verbena and selfheal.

Bell's Roadside-Skipper

Amblyscirtes belli



Caterpillar Hosts: Indian woodoats grass (*Chasmanthium latifolia*).

Adult Food: Flower nectar.

***Papilionidae* Parnassians and Swallowtails**

Pipevine Swallowtail
Battus philenor



Caterpillar Hosts: Pipevines (*Aristolochia* species), including *Aristolochia californica*, *A. serpentaria* and others.

Adult Food: Solely nectar from flowers including thistles (*Cirsium* species), bergamot, lilac, viper's bugloss, common azaleas, phlox, teasel, azaleas, dame's-rocket, lantana, petunias, verbenas, lupines, yellow star thistle, California buckeye, yerba santa, brodiaeas, and gillias

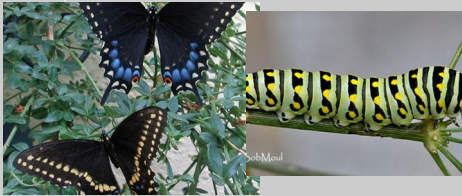
Zebra Swallowtail
Eurytides marcellus



Shrubs of the genus *Asimina* (pawpaw) in the *Annonaceae* family. Young plants are preferred.

Adult Food: Moisture from sand and nectar from flowers including blueberry, blackberry, lilac, redbud, viper's bugloss, verbena, dogbane, and common milkweed.

Black Swallowtail
Papilio polyxenes



Caterpillar Hosts: Leaves of plants in the parsley family (*Apiaceae*) including Queen Anne's Lace, carrot, celery and dill. Sometimes plants in the citrus family (*Rutaceae*) are preferred.

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers including red clover, milkweed, and thistles.

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio glaucus



Caterpillar Hosts: Leaves of various plants including wild cherry (*Prunus*), sweetbay (*Magnolia*), basswood (*Tilia*), tulip tree (*Liriodendron*), birch (*Betula*), ash (*Fraxinus*), cottonwood (*Populus*), mountain ash (*Sorbus*), and willow (*Salix*).

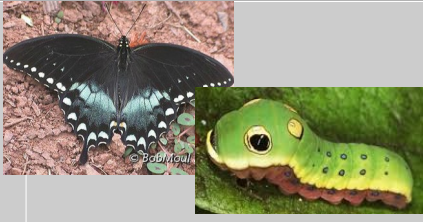
Adult Food: Nectar of flowers from a variety of plants including wild cherry and lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*). Milkweed (*Asclepias*) and Joe-Pye Weed [*Eupatorium*] are favorites in summer.

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (Female)



Papilionidae Parnassians and Swallowtails

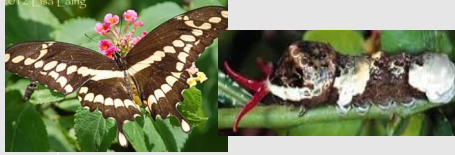
Spicebush Swallowtail
Papilio troilus



Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), sassafras trees (*Sassafras albidum*); perhaps prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*), tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*), camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*), and redbay (*Persea borbonia*).

Adult Food: Nectar from Japanese honeysuckle, jewelweed, thistles, milkweed, azalea, dogbane, lantana, mimosa, and sweet pepperbush.

Giant Swallowtail
Papilio cresphontes



Caterpillar Hosts: Trees and herbs of the citrus family (*Rutaceae*) including Citrus species, prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*), hop tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*), and Common Rue (*Ruta graveolens*).

Adult Food: Nectar from lantana, azalea, bougainvillea, bouncing Bet, dame's rocket, goldenrod, Japanese honeysuckle, and swamp milkweed.

Black Swallowtail



Female Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

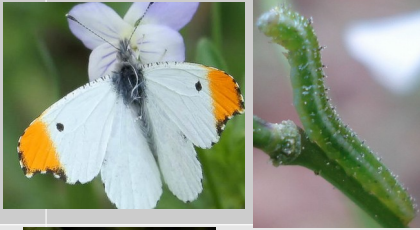
Spicebush Swallowtail



Pipevine Swallowtail

Pieridae Whites and Sulphurs

Falcate Orangetip
Anthocharis midea



Caterpillar Hosts: Plants of the mustard (Brassicaceae) family including rock cress (*Arabis*) and winter cress (*Barbarea*) species.

Adult Food: Flower nectar including flowers of mustards, violets, and others.

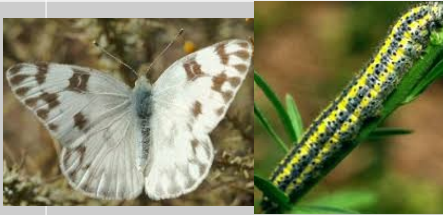
Cabbage White
Pieris rapae



Caterpillar Hosts: Many plants in the mustard (Brassicaceae) family and occasionally some in the caper family (Capparidaceae).

Adult Food: Flower nectar from a very wide array of plants including mustards, dandelion, red clover, asters, and mints.

Checkered White
Pontia protodice



Caterpillar Hosts: Plants in the mustard family (Brassicaceae) including cabbage (*Brassica oleraceae*); and caper family (Capparidaceae) including Rocky Mountain bee-plant (*Cleome serrulata*).

Adult Food: Flower nectar including hedge mustards, composites, and alfalfa.

Clouded Sulphur
Colias philodice



Caterpillar Hosts: Plants in the pea family (Fabaceae) including alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), and pea (*Pisum sativum*).

Adult Food: Flower nectar of many plants.

Orange Sulphur
Colias eurytheme



Caterpillar Hosts: Plants in the pea family (Fabaceae) including alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), and white sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*).

Adult Food: Nectar from many kinds of flowers including dandelion, milkweeds, goldenrods, and asters.

Pieridae Whites and Sulphurs

Southern Dogface
Zerene cesonia



Caterpillar Hosts: Small-leaved plants in the pea family (Fabaceae) including alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*); prairie clovers, indigo (*Dalea*), and clover (*Trifolium*) species.

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers including alfalfa, coreopsis, houstonia, and verbena.

Cloudless Sulphur
Phoebis sennae



Caterpillar Hosts: Cassia species in the pea family (Fabaceae).

Adult Food: Nectar from many different flowers with long tubes including cordia, bougainvillea, cardinal flower, hibiscus, lantana, and wild morning glory.

Mexican Yellow
Eurema mexicana



Caterpillar Hosts: Acacia and *Diphysa* in the pea family (Fabaceae).

Adult Food: Nectar from a wide variety of flowers.

Vagrant/outside range encounter

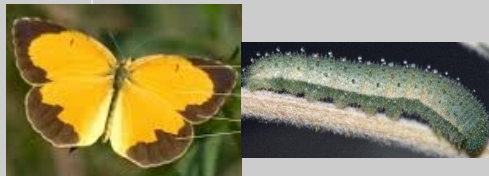
Little Yellow
Pyrisitia lisa



Caterpillar Hosts: Partridge pea (*Cassia fasciculata*) and wild sensitive plant (*C. nictans*) in the pea family (Fabaceae).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers in the aster family (Asteraceae) including goldenrods and asters.

Sleepy Orange
Abaeis nicippe



Caterpillar Hosts: Cassia species in the pea family (Fabaceae).

Adult Food: Nectar from many species of flowers, including shepherd's needle (*Bidens pilosa*).

***Pieridae* Whites and Sulphurs**

Dainty Sulphur
Nathalis iole



Caterpillar Hosts: Low-growing plants in the aster family (Asteraceae) especially shepherd's needle (*Bidens pilosa*), sneezeweed (*Helenium*), fetid marigold (*Dyssodia*), and cultivated marigold (*Tagetes*).

Adult Food: Nectars at Labrador tea, asters, wild marigold, rabbitbrush, and others.

Lycaenidae Gossamer-wing Butterflies

Harvester
Feniseca tarquinius



Caterpillar Hosts: Woolly aphids (*Neoprociphilus*, *Pemphigus*, *Prociphilus*, and *Schizoneura*) and sometimes scale insects or treehoppers; these insects suck sap from alders, witch hazel, ash, beech, hawthorn, and wild currant. Comments: Only North American butterfly species with carnivorous caterpillars.

Adult Food: Adult's short proboscis is suited for feeding on aphid honeydew; they do not sip flower nectar.

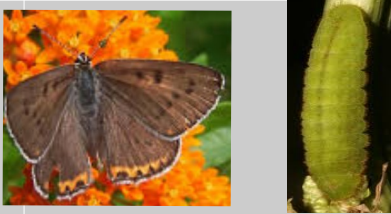
American Copper
Lycaena phlaeas



Caterpillar Hosts: Herbs of the buckwheat (*Polygonaceae*) family including sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), and *Oxyria digyna*.

Adult Food: Nectar from many flowers including common buttercup, white clover, butterflyweed, yarrow, ox-eye daisy, and various composites.

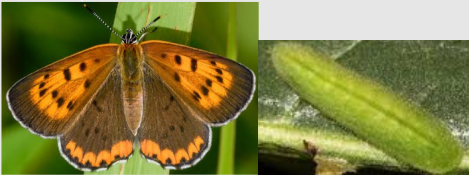
Gray Copper
Lycaena dione



Caterpillar Hosts: Several species of docks (*Rumex*).

Adult Food: Flower nectar of various plants including alfalfa, sweet clover, and milkweeds.

Bronze Copper
Lycaena hyllus



Caterpillar Hosts: Herbs of the buckwheat family (*Polygonaceae*) including curly dock (*Rumex crispus*).

Adult Food: Adults visit flowers only occasionally, but have been seen taking nectar at blackberry and red clover.

Juniper Hairstreak
Callophrys gryneus



Caterpillar Hosts: Redcedar (*scopulorum*), California juniper (*J. californica*), Utah juniper (*J. osteosperma*), and perhaps others.

Adult Food: Nectar from various flowers including winter cress, dogbane, common milkweed, wild carrot, shepherd's needle, butterflyweed, white sweet clover, and others.

Lycaenidae Gossamer-wing Butterflies

Henry's Elfin
Callophrys henrici



Caterpillar Hosts: Redbud (*Ceris canadensis*), huckleberries and blueberries (*Vaccinium* species), Mexican buckeye (*Ungnadia speciosa*), and *Viburnum* species are selected.

Adult Food: Where redbud is the caterpillar host, its flowers are the main nectar supply for adults. In other places, flowers of plants that are not the caterpillar host are used for nectar including willows, wild plum and hawthorn, and *Forstiera*.

Oak Hairstreak
Satyrium favonius



Caterpillar Hosts: Various oaks (*Quercus* species).

Adult Food: Flower nectar.

Coral Hairstreak
Satyrium titus



Caterpillar Hosts: Wild cherry, wild plum, and chokecherry (*Prunus* species) in the rose family (*Rosaceae*).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers including butterflyweed, New Jersey tea, dogbane, and sulphur flower.

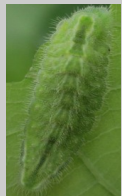
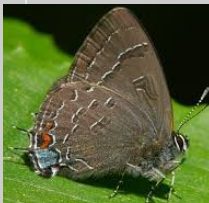
Hickory Hairstreak
Satyrium caryaevorus



Caterpillar Hosts: Mostly hickory (*Carya*); also ash (*Fraxinus*), chestnut (*Castanea*), and oak (*Quercus*) species.

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers of common milkweed, dogbane, New Jersey tea, staghorn sumac, and white sweet clover.

Banded Hairstreak
Satyrium calanus

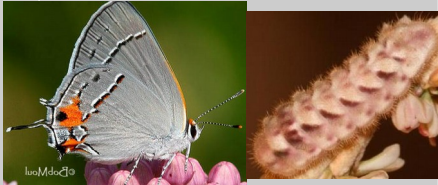


Caterpillar Hosts: Many species of oak (*Quercus*), walnut (*Juglans*), and hickory (*Carya*).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers including dogbane and common milkweed (preferred), chinquapin, small-flowered dogwood, New Jersey tea, meadowsweet, staghorn sumac, white sweet clover, and yarrow.

Lycaenidae Gossamer-wing Butterflies

Gray Hairstreak
Strymon melinus



Caterpillar Hosts: Flowers and fruits from an almost endless variety of plants; most often from pea (Fabaceae) and mallow (Malvaceae) families including beans (Phaseolus), clovers (Trifolium), cotton (Gossypium), and mallow (Malva).

Adult Food: Nectar from many flower species including dogbane, milkweed, mint, winter cress, goldenrod, tick trefoil, and white sweet clover.

White-M Hairstreak
Parrhasius m album

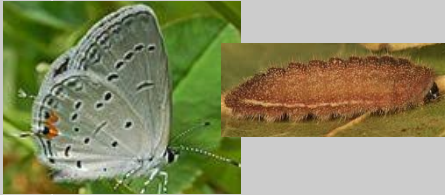


Rare!!!! Periphery

Caterpillar Hosts: Live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and other oak species.

Adult Food: Nectar from a variety of flowers including viburnum, sumac, sourwood, wild plum, poinsettia, sweet pepperbush, common milkweed, lantana, dogwood, and goldenrod.

Eastern Tailed-Blue
Cupido comyntas



Caterpillar Hosts: Many plants in the pea family including yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*); various species of vetch (*Vicia*), clover (*Trifolium*), wild pea (*Lathyrus*), and bush clover (*Lespedeza*); and others.

Adult Food: This butterfly has a low flight and a short proboscis, thus is found at flowers close to the ground which are open or short-tubed. These include white sweet clover, shepherd's needle, wild strawberry, winter cress, cinquefoils, asters, and others.

Summer Azure
Celastrina neglecta



Caterpillar Hosts: Racemose dogwood, New Jersey Tea, and other plants.

Adult Food: Flower nectar.

Nymphalidae Brush-footed Butterflies

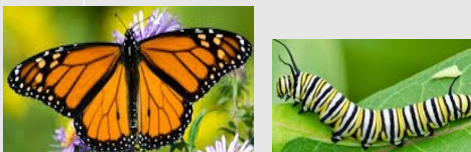
American Snout
Libytheana carinenta



Caterpillar Hosts: Several species of hackberry (*Celtis*).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers of aster, dogbane, dogwood, goldenrod, sweet pepperbush, and others.

Monarch
Danaus plexippus



Caterpillar Hosts: Milkweeds including common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*), and showy milkweed (*A. speciosa*); and milkweed vine in the tropics.

Adult Food: Nectar from all milkweeds. Early in the season before milkweeds bloom, Monarchs visit a variety of flowers. In the fall adults visit composites including goldenrods, blazing stars, ironweed, and tickseed sunflower.

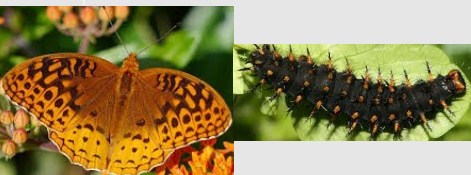
Variegated Fritillary
Euptoieta claudia



Caterpillar Hosts: A variety of plants in several families including maypops (*Passiflora incarnata*), may apple (*Podophyllum peltata*), violets (*Viola*), purslane (*Portulaca*), stonecrop (*Sedum*), and moonseed (*Menispermum*).

Adult Food: Nectar from several plant species including butterflyweed, common milkweed, dogbane, peppermint, red clover, swamp milkweed, and tickseed sunflower.

Great Spangled Fritillary
Speyeria cybele



Caterpillar Hosts: Various violet species (*Viola*). Eggs are laid in late summer on or near host violets. Newly-hatched caterpillars do not feed, but overwinter until spring, when they eat young violet leaves.

Adult Food: Nectar from many species of flowers including milkweeds, thistles, ironweed, dogbane, mountain laurel, verbena, vetch, bergamot, red clover, joe-pye weed, and purple coneflower.

Meadow Fritillary
Boloria bellona



Caterpillar Hosts: Violets including northern white violet (*Viola pallens*) and woolly blue violet (*V. sororia*).

Adult Food: Favorite nectar sources are composites, including black-eyed susans, dandelions, and ox-eyed daisy. Plants from other families, such as verbena and dogbane, are visited less often.

Nymphalidae Brush-footed Butterflies

Red-spotted Purple
or White Admiral

(subspecies)
Limenitis arthemis

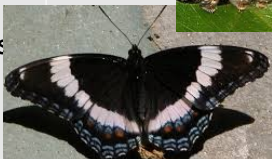


Caterpillar Hosts: Leaves of many species of trees and shrubs including wild cherry (Prunus), aspen, poplar, cottonwood (Populus), oaks (Quercus), hawthorn (Crataegus), deerberry (Vaccinium stamineum), birch (Betula), willows (Salix), basswood (Tilia), and shadbush (Amelanchier).

Adult Food: Sap flows, rotting fruit, carrion, dung, and occasionally nectar from small white flowers including spiraea, privet, and viburnum. White Admirals also sip aphid honeydew.

White Admiral

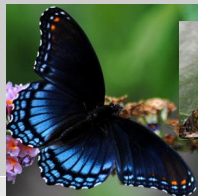
Limenitis arthemis arthemis



Caterpillar Hosts: Same as *Limenitis arthemis*

'Astyanax' Red-spotted
Purple

Limenitis arthemis astyanax



Caterpillar Hosts: Same as *Limenitis arthemis*

Comments: The Red-spotted Purple is a mimic of the poisonous Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*).

Viceroy

Limenitis archippus

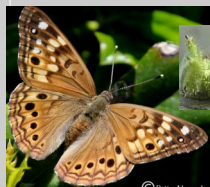


Caterpillar Hosts: Trees in the willow family (Salicaceae) including willows (Salix), and poplars and cottonwoods (Populus).

Adult Food: Early in the season when few flowers are available Viceroy's feed on aphid honeydew, carrion, dung, and decaying fungi. Later generations feed more often at flowers, favoring composites including aster, goldenrod, joe-pye weed, shepherd's needle, and Canada thistle.

Hackberry Emperor

Asterocampa celtis



Caterpillar Hosts: Various hackberries (Celtis species) and sugarberry (Celtis laevigata). Eggs are laid in clusters, and the young caterpillars feed communally. Caterpillars overwinter in groups gathered inside dead rolled leaves.

Adult Food: Sap, rotting fruit, dung, carrion. Will take moisture at wet spots along roads and streams.

Nymphalidae Brush-footed Butterflies

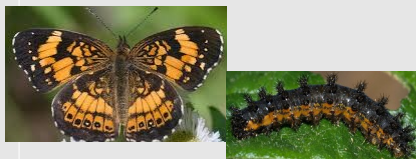
Tawny Emperor
Asterocampa clyton



Caterpillar Hosts: Trees of the elm family including *Celtis occidentalis*, *C. tenuifolia*, *C. laevigata*, *C. lindheimeri*, and *C. reticulata*.

Adult Food: Tree sap, rotting fruit, dung, carrion. Tawny Emperors almost never visit flowers.

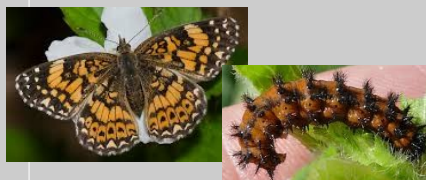
Silvery Checkerspot
Chlosyne nycteis



Caterpillar Hosts: Many different composites including black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia*), sunflowers (*Helianthus*), and wingstem (*Actinomeris alternifolia*).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers of red clover, common milkweed, and dogbane.

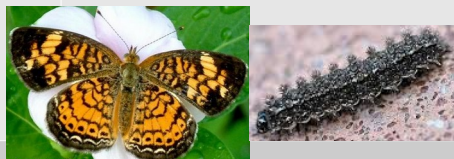
Gorgone Checkerspot
Chlosyne gorgone



Caterpillar Hosts: Several plants in the Asteraceae including sunflower (*Helianthus*) and crosswort (*Lysimachia*) species.

Adult Food: Nectar, especially from yellow flowers.

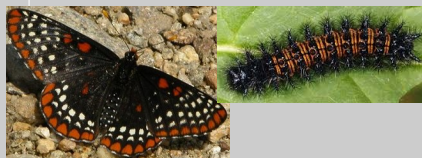
Pearl Crescent
Phyciodes tharos



Caterpillar Hosts: Several species of smooth-leaved true asters including *Aster pilosus*, *A. texanus*, and *A. laevis*.

Adult Food: Nectar from a great variety of flowers including dogbane, swamp milkweed, shepherd's needle, asters, and winter cress.

Baltimore Checkerspot
Euphydryas phaeton



Caterpillar Hosts: Plants where eggs are laid and that caterpillars eat before hibernating are turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), hairy beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*), English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), and false foxglove (*Aureolaria*). After overwintering, caterpillars may continue to use these plants, but may also wander and feed on unrelated plants including arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*), common lousewort (*Pedicularis canadensis*), and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*).

Adult Food: Nectar from flowers of milkweed, viburnum, and wild rose.

***Nymphalidae* Brush-footed Butterflies**

Common Buckeye
Junonia coenia



Caterpillar Hosts: Plants from the snapdragon family including snapdragon (*Antirrhinum*) and toadflax (*Linaria*); the plantain family including plantains (*Plantago*); and the acanthus family including ruellia (*Ruellia nodiflora*).

Adult Food: Favorite nectar sources are composites including aster, chickory, gumweed, knapweed, and tickseed sunflower. Dogbane, peppermint, and other flowers are also visited.

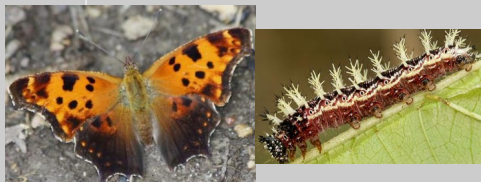
Question Mark
Polygonia interrogationis



Caterpillar Hosts: American elm (*Ulmus americanus*), red elm (*Ulmus rubra*), hackberry (*Celtis*), Japanese hop (*Humulus japonicus*), nettles (*Urtica*), and false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*).

Adult Food: Rotting fruit, tree sap, dung, carrion. Only when these are unavailable do Question Marks visit flowers such as common milkweed, aster, and sweet pepperbush.

Eastern Comma
Polygonia comma



Caterpillar Hosts: All members of the elm and nettle families including American elm (*Ulmus americana*), hops (*Humulus*), nettle (*Urtica*), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), and wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*).

Adult Food: Rotting fruit and tree sap.

Gray Comma
Polygonia progne



Caterpillar Hosts: Gooseberries (*Ribes*) and azalea (*Rhododendron*).

Adult Food: Sap; rarely flower nectar.

Mourning Cloak
Nymphalis antiopa

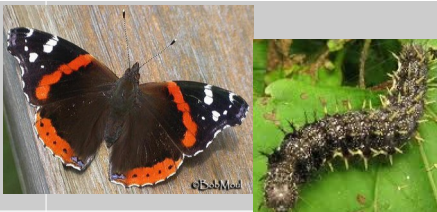


Caterpillar Hosts: Willows including black willow (*Salix nigra*), weeping willow (*S. babylonica*), and silky willow (*S. sericea*); also American elm (*Ulmus americana*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), aspen (*P. tremuloides*), paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), and hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*). Older caterpillars wander about and may be found on plants that they do not eat.

Adult Food: Mourning Cloaks prefer tree sap, especially that of oaks. They walk down the trunk to the sap and feed head downward. They will also feed on rotting fruit, and only occasionally on flower nectar.

Nymphalidae Brush-footed Butterflies

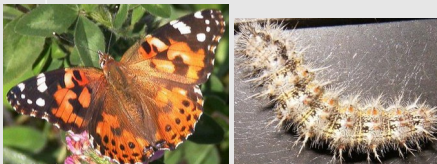
Red Admiral
Vanessa atalanta



Caterpillar Hosts: Plants of the nettle family (Urticaceae) including stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), tall wild nettle (*U. gracilis*), wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), pellitory (*Parietoria pennsylvanica*), mamaki (*Pipturus albidus*), and possibly hops (*Humulus*).

Adult Food: Red Admirals prefer sap flows on trees, fermenting fruit, and bird droppings; visiting flowers only when these are not available. Then they will nectar at common milkweed, red clover, aster, and alfalfa, among others.

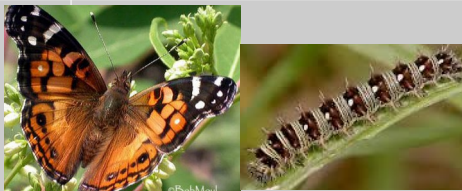
Painted Lady
Vanessa cardui



Caterpillar Hosts: More than 100 host plants have been noted; favorites include thistles (Asteraceae), hollyhock and mallow (Malvaceae), and various legumes (Fabaceae).

Adult Food: The Painted Lady prefers nectar from composites 3-6 feet high, especially thistles; also aster, cosmos, blazing star, ironweed, and joe-pye weed. Flowers from other families that are visited include red clover, buttonbush, privet, and milkweeds.

American Lady
Vanessa virginiensis



Caterpillar Hosts: Plants in the sunflower family everlasting (*Gnaphalium obtusifolium*), pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), plantain-leaved pussy toes (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*), wormwood (*Artemisia*), ironweed (*Vernonia*), and burdock (*Arctium*).

Adult Food: Flower nectar almost exclusively, including dogbane, aster, goldenrod, marigold, selfheal, common milkweed, and vetch.

Goatweed Leafwing
Anaea andria



Caterpillar Hosts: Goatweed (*Croton capitatum*), Texas croton (*C. texensis*), and prairie tea (*C. monanthogynus*); all in the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae).

Adult Food: Sap, rotting fruit, dung, bird droppings.

Little Wood-Satyr
Megisto cymela



Caterpillar Hosts: Orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*) and centipede grass (*Eremochloa ophiuroides*).

Adult Food: Sap, aphid honeydew, and rarely flower nectar.

***Nymphalidae* Brush-footed Butterflies**

Common Wood-Nymph
Cercyonis pegala



Caterpillar Hosts: Purpletop (*Tridens flavus*) and other grasses.

Adult Food: Rotting fruit, flower nectar.

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Date created- March 2021