



Common Butterflies *of* Eastern Nebraska

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This Field Guide is of butterflies of Eastern Nebraska. The region is divided into North, Central and South. If a butterfly is found in all three areas the butterfly is said to be Widespread. The guide includes the most common butterflies in Eastern Nebraska.

The butterflies are grouped by Family. The pictures show different characteristics of each butterfly. Included in the description of the butterfly is: Common Name, Scientific Name, Wing Span, Sighting Range, Host Plant, Nectar Plant, Winter Over and then information about how common the butterfly is, where it can be found, and general information about it.

The pictures were taken by Joanne Langabee, Loren and Babs Padelford.

Joanne Langabee has been doing butterfly field research at Laurantzen Gardens and Fontenelle Forest since 2015. The Sighting Range used was based on her research.

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Glossary

Common – Seen regularly in the region

Forewing – Top wing

Hindwing – Bottom wing

Host Plant – Food the caterpillar eats

Migrant – May be common to occasional visitor to the region
as part of its regular annual dispersion

Immigrant – a species that comes from a different area and does not
become a permanent resident

Nectar Food – Food the butterfly uses

Occasional – Present but not seen on a regular basis

Rare – unusual to be seen in the region

Sighting Range – Time of the year when one can expect to see the
butterfly

Stray – Not normally found in the region, visitor from another region

Uncommon – Present but not seen very often

Wingspan – Approximate size of the butterfly

Winter Over – Stage the butterfly lives through the winter

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Eastern Tiger Swallowtail – *Papilio glaucus*

Wingspan: 2.7 – 4.5”

Sighting Range: April – Mid-Sept

Host Plant: Tulip Tree, Willow, Wild Cherry, Cottonwood

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Milkweed, Butterfly Bush

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes: Widespread; Common. Large yellow butterfly with black bands. Females have iridescent blue on hindwing
Tails on hindwing. Female may have dark phase with stripes still visible. High flying butterfly found near woodlands, gardens, prairies, and woodlands.

Black Swallowtail – *Papilio polyxenes*

Wingspan: 2.7-4.0”

Sighting Range: Mid-April – Mid-Oct

Host Plant: Celery, Carrot, Dill, Queen Ann’s Lace

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Red Clover, Milkweed, Thistle

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes: Widespread; Common. Black swallowtail with 2 rows of yellow markings. Similar to Eastern Tiger Swallowtail black phase. Found in woodland edges, prairies, gardens.



Giant Swallowtail – *Papilio cresphontes*

Wingspan: 3.7-5.5”

Sighting Range: June – Mid-Sept.

Host Plant: Prickly Hop, Hop Tree, Common Rue

Nectar Plant: Lantana, Goldenrod, Swamp Milkweed

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes:

Widespread: Uncommon. Largest butterfly in the area.

Underneath side yellow with black markings while top of wing is black with yellow markings. Flutter wings while feeding. Found near woodland edges, woodlands, prairies, gardens.

Zebra Swallowtail – *Eurytides marcellus*

Wingspan: 1.9-3.0”

Sighting Range: Late April – July

Host Plant: Pawpaw tree

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Creeping Charlie, Coneflower

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes: South – Common; Central – Rare

In 2019 started to appear further north on a regular basis.

Only black and white large butterfly with red spots. Found near woodland edges, woodlands, gardens, prairies.



Cabbage White – *Pieris rapae*

Wingspan: 1.25 – 1.8”

Sighting Range: Mid-April – Oct.

Host Plant: Cabbage, Broccoli, Aster

Nectar Plant: Aster, Cosmo, Catmint

Winter Over: Chrysalis/Immigrant

Notes: Widespread; Common. Only non-native butterfly. One of first butterflies in spring. Males have one black spot and females two. Underwing can be pale yellow to white. Veins may be distinct. Found near open areas, forests.

Checkered White – *Pontia protodice*

Wingspan: 1.25 – 1.8

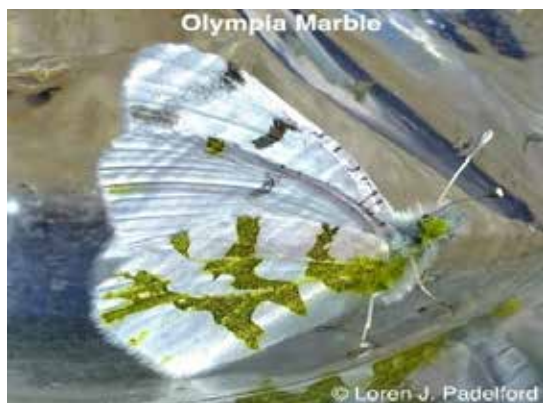
Sighting Range: Mid-May – Oct

Host Plant: Partridge Pea, Cabbage

Nectar Plant: Alfalfa, Composite plants

Winter Over: Chrysalis/Immigrant

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. Females more dark spots than males. Not common but can be seen most years. Found near open areas.



Olympia Marble – *Euchloe Olympia*

Wingspan: 1.2 – 1.7”

Sighting Range: April – May

Host Plant: Mustard Family, Rock Cress

Nectar Plant: Flowers

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. White with green marbling. White antennas. Found near prairies, weedy areas.

Clouded Sulphur – *Colias philodice*

Wingspan: 1.1 – 2.1

Sighting Range: Mid-April – October

Host Plant: Pea Family, Alfalfa, Clover

Nectar Plant: Flowers

Winter Over: Chrysalis & Caterpillar

Notes:

Widespread; Common. Female may be whitish. Confused with Orange Sulphur but don't see orange when Clouded Sulphur flies. Found in open areas.



Orange Sulphur – *Colias eurytheme*

Wingspan: 1.3 – 2.3”

Sighting Range: Mid-April – Nov.

Host Plant: Alfalfa and Clover

Nectar Plant: Flowers

Winter Over: Chrysalis & Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Common. When flies bright orange on wing noticeable. Females may be white. Appears later than Clouded Sulphur of similar size. Found in open areas.

Cloudless Sulphur – *Phoebis sennae*

Wingspan: 1.8 – 2.7”

Sighting Range: Mid-July – Nov.

Host Plant: Pea Family

Nectar Plant: Flowers, particularly red & blue

Winter Over: Immigrant from South

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. A greenish yellow, high flying, large Sulphur. Males have fewer markings than females on underwing. Found in open areas.



Little Yellow – *Eurema lisa*

Wingspan: 1.1 – 1.7”

Sighting Range: Mid- June – Nov.

Host Plant: Partridge Pea

Nectar Plant: Flowers

Winter Over: Immigrant from South

Notes: Widespread; Uncommon. Bright yellow with distinct brownish dot on hindwing. Always rest with wings closed. Usually flies low to ground. Found in open areas, prairies

Dainty Sulphur – *Nathalis iole*

Wingspan: 0.7 – 1.3”

Sighting Range: Mid-April – Oct.

Host Plant: Aster and Marigold Family, Sneezeweed

Nectar Plant: Flowers

Winter Over: Immigrant from South

Notes: Central and South; Rare. The smallest Sulphur; looks like dirt on wings. Flies low to the ground, may appear almost white. Rest with wings open. Found in open, low, grassy areas.



Sleepy Orange – *Eurema nicippe*

Wingspan: 1.1 – 1.9”

Sighting Range: Summer

Host Plant: Partridge Pea

Nectar Plant: Flowers

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Central and South; Rare. Small yellow butterfly with inside wings bright orange. Female more marked on underside than males. Flies close to vegetation. Strong, erratic flight. Found in overgrown fields, open areas, prairies.

Southern Dogface – *Colias (Zerene) cesonia*

Wingspan: 1.7 – 2.5”

Sighting Range: June – Aug

Host Plant: Prairie Clover, Legumes

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Aster, Milkweed

Winter Over: Immigrant

Notes: Widespread; Rare. Similar to Orange Sulphur but dog face with black eye. Bright Yellow. Found in open areas, forest edges.



Eastern Tailed-Blue – *Everes comyntas*

Wingspan: 0.6 – 1.0”

Sighting Range: Mid-May – Oct.

Host Plant: Alfalfa, Vetch, Bush Clover

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Fog Fruit

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Common. Small grayish blue butterfly with a tail and orange spot on rear hindwing. Female has two orange spots and male one. Spots used to distract predators. Low flyer and likes low growing flowers. Can be confused with Azures which are higher flyers

Azure, Spring & Summer – *Celastrina ladon* or *Celastrina neglecta*

Wingspan: 0.75-1.4”

Sighting Range: Late March – Oct.

Host Plant: Dogwood, New Jersey Tea

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Milkweed, Garlic Mustard

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes: Widespread; Common. Often in wooded area
Classified just as Azure; small bluish gray butterfly, no orange spot or tail, small black dots on underwing.



Reakirt's Blue – *Hemiargus isola*

Wingspan: 0.6 – 1.0”

Sighting Range: Late March – October

Host Plant: Pea family, Yellow Clover, Indigo bush

Nectar Plant: Flower, Spearmint, Clover

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. Small bluish gray butterfly, no orange spot or tail. Large black spots on underside of wing. When wings open one black dot on hindwing. Higher flyer than Eastern Tailed-Blue.

Melissa Blue – *Lycaeides melissa*

Wingspan: 0.88 – 1.4”

Sighting Range: May – Sept.

Host Plant: Legumes, Alfalfa

Nectar Plant: Flowers

Winter Over: Unkown

Notes: North and Central; Common. Females with orange on forewing. Underside continuous black line along outer margin. Found in prairie, lakeshores, weedy areas.



Harvester – *Feniseca tarquinius*

Wingspan: 0.85 – 1.3”

Sighting Range: April - Oct

Host Plant: Wooly Aphids, only carnivorous caterpillar

Nectar Source: Aphid Honeydew, Damp Soil, Dung

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes: Central; Rare. Found at woodland edges or in grown fields. Brown with spots surrounded in white.

Gray Copper – *Lycaena dione*

Wingspan: 1.25 – 1.7”

Sighting Range: Jun-July

Host Plant: Dock

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Wild Parsnip, Dogbane

Winter Over: Egg

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. Largest of Coppers. Males emerge first with females a week later. Females more dark spots on upper side than males. Orange marginal hindwing band. Found near overgrown fields, prairies, near water.



Bronze Copper – *Lycaena hyllus*

Wing Span: 1.2 – 1.6”

Sighting Range: May – Sept.

Host Plant: Dock

Nectar Plant: Mountain Mint, Swamp Milkweed

Winter Over: Egg

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. Wide orange band on lower edge of hindwing. Male has purple brown upper side with black dots while female is orange with black dots. Found near wet areas, prairies.

Henry’s Elfin – *Callophrys henrici*

Wing Span: 0.8 – 1.1”

Sighting Range: April-May

Host Plant: Redbud, Blueberries, Viburnum

Nectar Plant: Redbud, flowers, Wild Plum

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes: Central and South; Rare. Small brownish butterfly found near redbud trees at edge of woodlands. Wings always closed when resting.



Gray Hairstreak – *Strymon melinus*

Wing Span: 0.8 – 1.25”

Sighting Range: Late April – Oct.

Host Plant: Pea, Mallow family, Beans, Clover

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Milkweed, Goldenrod, Dogbane

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Uncommon. Orange spot on hind wing; band of white lines with black and orange inward. Males pale orange spot on abdomen and female with gray. Often found near goldenrod in open areas.

Banded Hairstreak – *Satyrrium calanus*

Wing Span: 0.8 – 1.3”

Sighting Range: June-July

Host Plant: Walnut, Hickory, Oak

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Milkweed

Winter Over: Eggs

Notes: Widespread; Rare. Can be confused with Gray Hairstreak and Hickory Hairstreak. Only white outline on one side of band Blue spot usually dark.

Juniper Hairstreak



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'Olive' Juniper Hairstreak – *Callophrys gryneus gryneus*

Wingspan: 0.7 – 1.2”

Sighting Range: April – Aug.

Host Plant: Leaf Tips of Eastern Red Cedar

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Mountain Mint, Native Prairie Flowers

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes: Central and South; Rare. Female more orange on upper side. Distinctive Green Color.

Coral Hairstreak – *Satyrrium titas*

Wingspan: 0.9 – 1.4”

Sighting Range: June – July

Host Plant: Wild Plum and Wild Cherry

Nectar Plant: Butterfly Milkweed, Dogbane

Winter Over: Egg and possible Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Rare. Underside coral-colored spots. No blue eyespot like many hairstreaks. Male wing angled; female rounded. Topside dull gray-brown. No Tail.



Variegated Fritillary – *Euptoieta claudia*

Wingspan: 1.5-2.6”

Sighting Range: Mid-June – Mid-Oct

Host Plant: Violet

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Coreopsis, Coneflowers

Winter Over: Immigrant

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. More common than Great Spangled Fritillary and smaller. No spangles on underside but variegated to blend in to surrounding. Found low to ground basking in sun; gardens, prairies, open areas.

Great Spangled Fritillary – *Speyeria cybele*

Wingspan: 2.3 -3.5”

Sighting Range: Mid-May – Mid-Sept.

Host Plant: Violet, Viola

Nectar Plant: Milkweed, Coneflower, Joe-Pye Weed

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Uncommon. Upper wings black and brown-orange in color. Males more orange and wider black veins on forewing. Longer lifespan than most butterflies. Found near open areas with plenty of flowers and woodland edges.



Regal Fritillary – *Speyeria idalia*

Wingspan: 2.9 – 3.8”

Sighting Range: July – Aug.

Host Plant: Violets

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Common Milkweed, Coneflower

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. Females have row of white dots on edge of underwing. Females lack orange spots that males have. Found in prairies.

Pearl Crescent – *Phyciodes tharos*

Wingspan: 1.0 – 1.6”

Sighting Range: Mid-April – Oct

Host Plant: True Asters

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Asters, Goldenrod

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Common. Antenna of males are black and females are orange. Pattern highly variable. Brighter in summer than spring. Medium size butterfly. Found near grassy areas, low to the ground.



Gorgone Checkerspot – *Chlosyne gorgone*

Wingspan: 1.0 – 1.7”

Sighting Range: July – Oct

Host Plant: Composit Flowers

Nectar Plants: Flowers, Coneflowers

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. Looks similar to Pearl Crescent but has white dots on tips of wing. Found near woodland edges and prairies.

Silvery Checkerspot – *Chlosyne nycteis*

Wingspan: 1.3 – 1.6”

Sighting Range: June – Aug.

Host Plant: Asters, Sunflowers, Black-eyed Susan

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Coneflowers, Sunflowers

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. Hindwing has black spot with white center. Found near woodland edges, prairies.



Eastern Comma – *Polygonia comma*

Wingspan: 1.6 – 2.3”

Sighting Range: Mid-March – Nov.

Host Plant: Elm, Nettle Family, Hops

Nectar Plant: Decaying Fruit, Tree Sap, Carrion, Dung

Winter Over: Adult

Notes: Widespread; Common. White comma and heavily patterned on underwing. One less bar on forewing than on Question Mark. May be found on a warm winter day in forest, open area, prairies.

Question Mark – *Polygonia interrogationis*

Wingspan: 1.9 – 2.5”

Sighting Range: May – Mid-Oct.

Host Plant: Elm, Nettles, Hackberry Tree, Japanese Hops

Nectar Plant: Tree Sap, Decaying Fruit, Carrion, Dung

Winter Over: Adult

Notes: Widespread; Uncommon. White “?” on underside of wing. Extra bar on forewing that Eastern Comma doesn’t have. Slightly large than Eastern Comma. Not as common as Eastern Comma. Found near prairies, open areas, forests.



Gray Comma – *Polygonia progne*

Wingspan: 1.6 – 2.1”

Sighting Rang: June – Oct

Host Plant: Gooseberry

Nectar Plant: Tree Sap, Dung, Decaying Fruit

Winter Over: Adult

Notes: Widespread; Rare. Very similar to the Eastern Comma and Question Mark except having an ‘L’ on the underneath wing. Lacking spot on the hindwing. Found near woodlands, open areas.

Mourning Cloak – *Nymphalis antiopa*

Wingspan: 1.6 – 2.3”

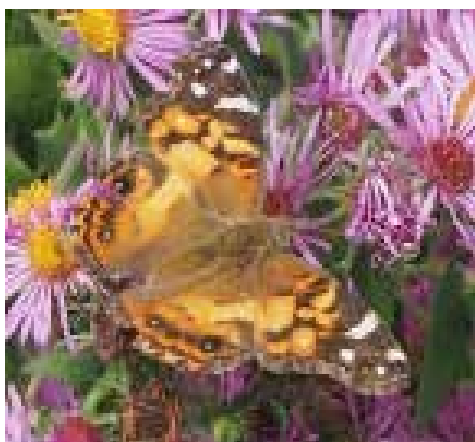
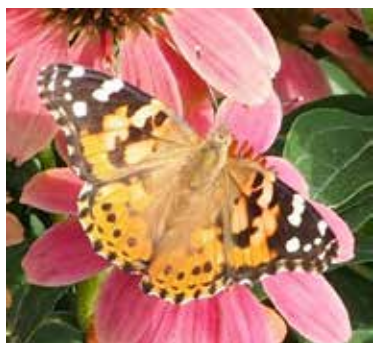
Sighting Range: April – Oct.

Host Plant: Willow, Elm, Cottonwood, Hackberry Tree

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Tree Sap, Decaying Fruit, Carrion

Winter Over: Adult

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. Likes cooler weather, so may not be seen in the summer. Only butterfly with white/yellow fringe and blue spots on border of hindwing. May live for 10 months. Found near wooded areas, gardens.



Painted Lady – *Vanessa cardui*

Wingspan: 1.7 - 2.6"

Sighting Range: Late April – Oct.

Host Plant: Thistles, Legumes, Hollyhock, Mallows

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Coneflowers, Butterfly Bush, Allium

Winter Over: Immigrant from Southwest

Notes: Widespread; Common. May be large explosions of them 4-5 small eyespots on the underwing while American Lady has 2 large eyespots. Dots on hindwing margin are not connected. White dots on tips of wings. Found near open areas, prairies, gardens.

American Lady – *Vanessa virginiensis*

Wingspan: 1.6 – 2.3"

Sighting Range: Late April – Oct.

Host Plant: Pussytoes, Sunflower Family Ironweed

Nectar Plant: Aster, Milkweed, Marigold, Goldenrod

Winter Over: Immigrant

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. Dots on upper hindwing appear smeared. Small white dot on middle of forewing. Large eyespot on underwing. Similar to Painted Lady. Found near prairie, gardens, overgrown areas.



Red Admiral – *Vanessa atalanta*

Wingspan: 1.6 -2.3”

Sighting Range: April – Oct

Host Plant: Nettle Family

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Tree Sap, Decaying Fruit

Winter Over: Immigrant from Southwest

Notes: Widespread; Common. Identified by red lines and white spots on wing. Brightness will vary from red to orange strips. Attracted to sweat. Found near wet areas, forest, open areas.

Common Buckeye – *Junonia coenia*

Wingspan: 1.5 – 2.4”

Sighting Range: Mid-May – Oct.

Host Plant: Snapdragon, Plantain Family

Nectar Plant: Aster, Dogbane, Sunflower

Winter Over: Immigrant from South

Notes: Widespread; Common. Distinct eyespots and white band seen when wings are open. Usually here by June. Usually found low to the ground. Found near open areas, prairies, woodland edges.



Red Spotted Purple– *Limenitis arthemis astyanax*

Wingspan: 2.3 – 3.5”

Sighting Range: June – Sept.

Host Plant: Cottonwood, Oak, Willow, Basswood trees

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Decaying Fruit, Carrion, Dung

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Uncommon. Red spots on underside of the wings with spots on upper side not always noticeable. Florescent blue-black color. Found near forest edge, open areas, forest, gardens.

American Snout – *Libytheana carinenta*

Wingspan: 1.2 – 1.9”

Sighting Range: Late April – Mid-Oct.

Host Plant: Hackberry Tree

Nectar Plant: Tree Sap, Asters, Goldenrod, Dogwood

Winter Over: Immigrant

Notes: Varies from year to year being an immigrant. Blends in with environment, looks like stick. When flies see flash of orange. Same colors as Painted Lady. Found near forest edge, forest, overgrown areas.



Viceroy – *Limenitis archippus*

Wingspan: 2.3 – 3.1”

Sighting Range: June – Oct

Host Plant: Willow, Poplar, Cottonwood Trees

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Goldenrod, Aster

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Uncommon. A distinct line across the hindwing that distinguishes from Monarch, prefer wet, nonpopulated areas, gardens.

Monarch – *Danaus plexippus*

Wingspan: 2.3 – 3.2”

Sighting Range: Mid-April – Oct.

Host Plant: Milkweed

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Coneflower, Aster, Butterfly Bush

Winter Over: Migrate to Mexico

Notes: Widespread; Common. Orange and black veins with white spots at edge of wings. Males have black scent gland on hindwing. Similar to Viceroy except no black line across hindwing. Found near forest, forest edge, gardens, prairies, open area.



Hackberry Emperor – *Asterocampa celtis*

Wingspan: 1.5 – 2.2”

Sighting Range: June – Mid-Sept

Host Plant: Hackberry Tree, Sugarberry

Nectar Plant: Tree Sap, Decaying Fruit, Carrion, Dung

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Common. White spots on upper forewing on brown body. Females have rounded wings while males wings are angular. Rest head downward. Like sweat of people. Found near hackberry trees and edge of forest, gardens.

Tawny Emperor – *Asterocampa clyton*

Wingspan: 1.4 – 2.4”

Sighting Range: July – Mid-Aug.

Host Plant: Hackberry Tree, Sugarberry

Nectar Food: Tree Sap, Decaying Fruit, Carrion, Dung

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Uncommon. Tawny brown while Hackberry Emperor is brown. No white spots. Found near woodlands and edges.



Northern Pearly-Eye – *Enodia anthedon*

Wingspan: 1.6 – 2.4”

Sighting Range: Mid-June – Sept.

Host Plant: Grasses, Bottle Brush

Nectar Plant: Tree Sap, Decaying Fruit, Carrion, Dung

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Central and South; Uncommon. Has pearly eye spots on the underwing that are surrounded with yellow. Has black at base of antenna club. Usually perch with wings closed. More active at dawn and dusk. Found near forest, wet areas.

Little Wood-Satyr – *Megisto cymela*

Wingspan: 1.7 – 1.7”

Sighting Range: June

Host Plant: Orchard Grass, Centipede Grass

Nectar Plant: Tree Sap, Decaying Fruit, Aphid Honeydew

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. Has low bouncy flight going in and out of grass. When disturbed goes straight up. Yellow rimed spots on both upper and lower wing. Found near woodland, prairies.



Common Wood Nymph – *Cercyonis pegala*

Wingspan: 1.7 – 2.7”

Sighting Range: June – Aug.

Host Plant: Grasses

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Tree Sap, Decaying Fruit, Carrion, Dung

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Rare. Eye-spot on forward wing surrounded by yellow ring. Found near open areas, disturbed areas, prairies.

Goatweed Leafwing – *Anaea andria*

Wingspan: 1.8 – 2.5”

Sighting Range: April and Oct.

Host Plant: Goatweed, Croton

Nectar Plant: Nectar, Sap, Decaying Fruit

Winter Over: Adult

Notes: Central and South; Rare. When wings closed looks like dried leaf. Hadn't been seen for 30 years, then a number seen in 2019. Found near woodland edge, prairies.



Silver Spotted Skipper – *Epargyreus clarus*

Wingspan: 1.6 – 2.5”

Sighting Range: Mid-May – Oct.

Host Plant: Black Locust, Honey Locust, False Indigo

Nectar Plant: Blue, Red & Purple Flowers, Blazing Star

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes: Widespread; Common. Largest Spread-wing Skipper. Distinct white spot on underwing with gold-brown bands on upper open wings. Found near open areas with flowers; woodland edges.

Common Checkered Skipper – *Pyrgus communis*

Wingspan: 1.0 – 1.3”

Sighting Range: April – Oct.

Host Plant: Mallow, Hollyhock

Nectar Plant: Composite Flowers, Fleabane, Aster

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. Can be black and white to brown and white; blend in with rock. Males have more white on wings than females; females darker color. Low flyers. Found near open areas, gardens, woodland edges.



Common Sootywing – *Pholisora catullus*

Wingspan: 1.0 – 1.2”

Sighting Range: June – Aug

Host Plant: Lamb’s Quarter, Cockscomb

Nectar Plant: White Clover, Cucumber

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. Four small white dots on head. Wings more rounded than other spread-wing skippers. Female more white spots on forewing than males. Found near disturbed areas

Wild Indigo Duskywing – *Erynnis baptisiae*

Wingspan: 1.1 – 1.5”

Sighting Range: Mid-April – Oct.

Host Plant: Wild Indigo, Crown Vetch

Nectar Plant: Clover, Dogbane, Sunflower

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Central, South; becoming more common. Dark brown color with distinct white spots on underside. Appears florescent golden brown when sun hits it right. More common in spring than rest of the year. Found near prairies, woodland edges.



Horace's Duskywing – *Erynnis horatius*

Wingspan: 1.2 – 1.6"

Sighting Range: July – Aug.

Host Plant: Oak Trees

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Carrion, Dung

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Rare. Similar to Wild Indigo Duskywing. Brown fringed wing, white dots larger than Wild Indigo Duskywing. Found near woodland edges, gardens disturbed areas.

Funeral Duskywing – *Erynnis funeralis*

Wingspan: 1.3 – 1.7"

Sighting Range: May – Aug

Host Plant: Bean and Pea Family

Nectar Plant: Flowers

Winter Over: Immigrant

Notes: South, Central; Rare. Very Distinct white fringe on hind wing. Dark Brown. Found in open areas.



Hayhurst Scallopwing – *Staphylus hayhurstii*

Wingspan: 0.9 – 1.2”

Sighting Range: May – Sept.

Host Plant: Lamb’s Quarter, Goosefoot

Nectar Plant: Thyme, Avid flower feeder

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Rare. Caterpillar feed at night. Males upper side darker than female. Female pale flecks of coloration. Scalloped edge to wing, rest with wings open. Found near woodland edges, prairies, overgrown areas.

Juvenal’s Duskywing – *Erynnis juvenalis*

Wingspan: 1.3 – 1.7”

Sighting Range: April – May

Host Plant: Oak Leaves

Nectar Plant: Wild Gooseberry

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Central, South; Rare. Similar to Horace Duskywing; forewing less heavily marked than Horace Duskywing. two pale dots on underside of hindwing. Fast flyer. Found near woodlands edges, oak woods.



Least Skipper – *Ancyloxypha numitor*

Wingspan: 0.8 – 1.1”

Sighting Range: Late May – Sept.

Host Plant: Various Grasses, Marsh Millet

Nectar Plant: Fog Fruit, Flowers, Mud

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Common. Smallest Skipper in area. Rounded wings and bronze color. Weak Flyer. Found on low growing plants, moist grassy areas.

Peck’s Skipper – *Polites peckius*

Wingspan: 0.9 – 1.1”

Sighting Range: June – Oct.

Host Plant: Bluegrass, Other Grasses

Nectar Plant: Flowers

Winter Over: Caterpillar or Adult

Notes: Widespread; Common. Distinct yellow pattern on underwing with mark extending beyond adjacent marks. Found near gardens, open areas, disturbed areas.



Sachem – *Atalopedes campestris*

Wingspan: 1.1 – 1.6”

Sighting Range: May – Oct

Host Plant: Crabgrass, Bermuda Grass

Nectar Plant: Milkweed, Buttonbush, Marigolds

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes: Widespread; Common. Female has distinct light “V” on underwing with males underwing greater variety of pattern. Males have large stigma and wide black border that can be seen when wings are open. Found near open areas, prairies, forest edge, gardens.

Tawny Edged Skipper – *Polites themistocles*

Wingspan: 0.9 – 1.1”

Sighting Range: June – Sept.

Host Plant: Panic Grass, Bluegrass, Crabgrass

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Alfalfa, Clover, Coneflower

Winter Over: Chrysalis

Notes: Widespread; Common. Orange/brass color with no markings on underwing. Edge of wing is “tawny color”. Orange patch on upper side of wing. Forewings more pointed than most Grass Skippers. Found in open areas, gardens, fields.



Dun Skipper – *Euphyes vestris*

Wing Span: 1.1 – 1.3”

Sighting Range: Late June – Sept.

Host Plant: Sedges

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Milkweed, Vetch, New Jersey Tea

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Uncommon. Looks like a piece of chocolate with small white dots on upper wing; in males don't notice dots. Found near woodlands edge, prairies, gardens.

Fiery Skipper – *Hylephila phyleus*

Wing Span: 1.0 -1.4”

Sighting Range: Mid-June – Oct.

Host Plant: Crabgrass, Bermuda Grass

Nectar Plant: Swamp Milkweed, Asters, Ironweed

Winter Over: Immigrant

Notes: Central, South; Common. Underwings have spots with males having fewer than females. When wings open little flames point into the body from wing edge. Males have black stigma on upper wing. Found near gardens, prairies, woodland edges.



Common Roadside Skipper – *Amblyscirtes vialis*

Wingspan: 0.9 – 1.2”

Sighting Range: Late April – Aug.

Host Plant: Wild Oats, Bluegrass, Grasses

Nectar Plant: Flowers, Milkweed, Henbit

Over Winter: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Uncommon. White tornado on upper and undersides of wing. Brown and white checkered edge. Small Skipper. Found near prairies, open areas, woodland edges.

Delaware Skipper – *Anatrytone logan*

Wingspan: 1.1 – 1.4”

Sighting Range: Mid-June – Mid-Oct

Host Plant: Big Bluestem, Switchgrass

Nectar Plant: Fruit, Flowers

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Common. Cheddar cheese in color with fringe orange-tan. Black veins on upper side of wing. Often confused with Tawny Edged Skipper. Males have “**V**” on upper side of forewing. Found near wet areas, gardens, prairies, open areas.



Hobomok – *Poanes hobomok*

Wingspan: 1.1 – 1.4”

Sighting Range: June

Host Plant: Panic Grass, Bluegrass

Nectar Plant: Milkweed, Henbit

Winter Over: Unkown

Notes: Widespread; Occasional. It is bright in color having a yellow pattern on the underwing. Found near open areas, forest edges.

Zabulon Skipper – *Poanes zabulon*

Wingspan: 1.1 – 1.4”

Sighting Range: June – Aug.

Host Plant: Blue Grass, Wild Rye,

Nectar Plant: Red Clover, Button Bush, Joe-Pye Weed

Over Winter: Caterpillar

Notes: Widespread; Rare. It is a darker brown with a yellow pattern. Found near woodland edges, gardens, prairies.

Little Glassywing – *Pompeius verna*

Wingspan: 1.1 – 1.4”

Sighting Range: May – July

Host Plant: Purpletop Grass

Nectar Plant: Milkweed

Winter Over: Caterpillar

Notes: Central, South; Rare. Dark brown to black with white patch on upper side of forewing. White mark below club of antennae. Similar to Dun Skipper. Found near woodland edges, prairies, moist grassy areas.





Help survey Nebraska butterflies

The presence of butterfly species in the state can vary widely each year, and because of the limited range of many species they can be hard to track.

Help conduct the annual census of Nebraska butterflies so that scientists can more accurately track the diversity and spread of butterflies. Send sightings to nebraskabutterflies@gmail.com Include location, species, approximate numbers, a brief description and a photo if one is available.

At the end of each year, all who submit at least one sighting will receive an annual report via email detailing butterfly species seen in Nebraska that year.

