Arkansas Butterfly Checklist

General Information

To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences, and warning signs have not been installed in some park locations. Caution and increased supervision of your children and others in your care are required while visiting these areas.

NOTES:
- To join the Arkansas Butterfly Online Discussion Group, visit www.arkansasbutterflylady.com or e-Butterfly.org
- Additional resources for Arkansas butterflies and moths include the Arkansas State Parks Natural Resources team.

Checklist compiled and updated by Lori Spencer, Lepidopterist and members of the Arkansas State Parks Natural Resources team.

Arkansas State Parks
#1 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-1191
www.ArkansasStateParks.com

Cover Photo: Female Diana fritillary by Don R. Simons. The Diana fritillary is the state butterfly of Arkansas.

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Species | Flight Months | Region(s) | Relative Abundance
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Hesperidae — Skippers
- silver-spotted skipper | 4-12 | ST | C
- long-tailed skipper | 7-10 | ST | R
- golden-banded skipper | 6-10 | ST | R
- hoary edge | 4-10 | ST | C
- s. cloudywing | 5-9 | ST | U
- n. cloudywing | 4-9 | ST | C
- confused cloudywing | 5-9 | ST | R
- Hayhurst’s scallopywing | 6-9 | ST | R
- Horace’s duskywing | 3-10 | ST | C
- sleepy duskywing | 3-6 | ST | C
- dreamy duskywing | 3-6 | OZ, OM, ARV | R
- mottled duskywing | 5-7 | ST | U
- Juvenal’s duskywing | 3-6 | ST | C
- funereal duskywing | 6-9 | ST | U
- wild indigo duskywing | 6-9 | ST | C
- common checkeder-skipper | 6-11 | ST | U
- common sotyingwing | 4-9 | ST | C
- swarthy skipper | 5-10 | ST | U
- clouded skipper | 4-11 | ST | U
- least skipper | 5-10 | ST | R
- southern skippering | 3-10 | S.1/4 | R
- fiery skipper | 5-11 | ST | C
- Leonard’s skipper | 8-10 | OZ, OM, ARV | R
- cobweb skipper | 4-5 | W.1/2 | R
- Meske’s skipper | 4-10 | ST ex.CR | R
- tawny-edged skipper | 5-10 | ST | C
- crossline skipper | 5-10 | ST | R
- whirlabout | 5-10 | OM, GC, ARV | U
- s. broken-dash | 5-10 | ST ex.NE | U
- n. broken-dash | 6-9 | ST | R
- little glassywing | 5-9 | ST | R
- sachem | 5-9 | ST | C
- Delaware skipper | 6-9 | ST | C
- byssus skipper | 5-9 | OZ, OM, ARV | R
- hobomok skipper | 5-7 | N.1/2 | U
- zabolon skipper | 4-9 | ST | C
Hesperidae — Skippers continued
- yehl skipper | 5-10 | ST | R
- broad-winged skipper | 5-10 | OM, GC, ARV | R
- dion skipper | 6-9 | ST | C
- Dukes’ skipper | 6-9 | E.1/4 | U
- dun skipper | 5-10 | ST | U
- dusted skipper | 4-5 | ST | U
- pepper and salt skipper | 4-7 | ST | U
- Linda’s roadside-skipper | 4-9 | N.1/2 | R
- face-winged roadside-skipper | 4-9 | N.1/2 | R
- Carolina roadside-skipper | 4-9 | N.1/2 | R
- common roadside-skipper | 4-8 | ST | C
- Bell’s roadside-skipper | 3-9 | ST ex.SE 1/4 | R
- dusky roadside-skipper | 3-8 | GC | R
- eufala skipper | 6-10 | ST | U
- Brazilian skipper | 8-10 | S.1/2 | U
- occola skipper | 6-11 | S. Edge | R
- yucca giant-skipper | 4-5 | SW 1/4 | U
Papilionidae — Swallowtails
- pipervine swallowtail | 3-11 | ST | C
- zebra swallowtail | 3-9 | ST | C
- black swallowtail | 4-9 | ST | C
- giant swallowtail | 4-10 | ST | C
- e. tiger swallowtail | 3-10 | ST | C
- spicebush swallowtail | 3-10 | ST | C
Pieridae — White & Sulphurs
- checkeder white | 2-9 | ST | C
- cabbage white | 3-12 | ST | C
- olympia marble | 3-5 | W.1/2 | R
- falcate orange tip | 3-5 | ST | C
- clouded sulphur | 3-11 | ST | C
- orange sulphur | 3-11 | ST | C
- s. dogface | 4-10 | ST | U
- cloudless sulphur | 4-12 | ST | C
- little yellow | 4-11 | ST | C
- sleepy orange | 3-12 | ST | C
- dainty sulphur | 2-12 | ST | U

**CHECKLIST KEY**

**REGION ABBREVIATIONS**
- Ozark Plateau (OZ)
- Arkansas River Valley (ARV)
- Crowly’s Ridge (CR)
- Ouachita Mountains (OM)
- Gulf Coastal Plain West Region (GC)
- Mississippi Delta (MD)
- Statewide (ST)

**RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (RA) SYMBOLS**
- C Common (almost always seen each year)
- U Uncommon (few individuals seen at each spot each year)
- R Rare (unlikely to see more than 1-2 individuals, not every year)
- L Local (not widespread within range listed, even with suitable habitat)

**DIRECTIONAL ABBREVIATIONS**
The following abbreviations apply to all directions included in the checklist.
- n. northern
- N.1/2 northern half
- ex. except
- N.1/4 northern quarter
- E.1/4 eastern quarter

- This checklist contains all species known to breed in state, including migrants and colonists. Strays, infrequent colonists, and extirpated species excluded.

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

**FEEDING:** Butterflies drink with a long, straw-like tube called a proboscis.
- Puddling (drinking liquids from damp ground, sand, or other source)
- Drinking nectar from flowers? Observe the flower species, color, height, and shape.

**FLIGHT:**
- Flight slow, graceful, soaring?
- Flight short, erratic pattern?

**THERMOREGULATION:** Butterflies are cold-blooded and must rely on the temperature of their environment to warm flight muscles. Butterflies orient their wings to the sun, a behavior called basking.
- Dorsal basking (wings open to the sun)
- Lateral basking (wings closed, tilted 90° to sun)

**MATING:** Mating behavior is poorly understood and seldom observed.
- Patrolling down a trail or road (males patrol in search of females)
- Penching (males sit and wait for females to fly by an opening, such as a field)
- Hiltopping (unmarked males fly to hiltops in search of females on their way up)
- Courtship (females accepting or rejecting males)
- Mating (may last several hours; one sex may fly away carrying the mate)

**BECOME A COMMUNITY SCIENTIST**

Data partially derived from community scientists revealed a 1.6 percent annual decline in western states’ butterfly population from 1972-2018. *The power of community!*

Become a community scientist to help Arkansas’s butterflies through data on this checklist.

Together we can protect butterflies, and consequently, maintain our quality of life.

Leave your checklist at any state park visitor center front desk; or share your sightings by email. Consider submitting butterfly photos and findings to iNaturalist.org.