

Butterflies

These insects fly mainly from spring into late summer and early fall. However some can be found into December in warm years. A few species overwinter and fly on warm days through January and February in the south. The date of the latest list update appears on the cover.

Format: Abundance (Flight months) (Region) Host Plant #
 A (1-12) (A-E) 1-58

Abundance codes:

A=Abundant **U=Uncommon**
C=Common **R=Rare**
F=Fairly Common **V=Vagrant**

Abundances may vary locally and ratings are average for the state. An **L** is added to the abundance on highly fluctuant local species.

Regional codes correspond to these rough districts:

A Ozarks and the Northwest
B Ark River Valley from Ft. Smith to Russellville to Little Rock
C Ouachita Mountains and the southwest Gulf Coastal plain
D Northeast, mix of east Ozarks, some Delta & Crowley's Ridge
E Majority of Delta region and the southeast counties.



Species with no regional bracket entry can be found statewide.

Family: HesperIIDae

- ___ Silver-spotted Skipper C (5-12) 54,1,2,3,4
- ___ Long-tailed Skipper U (7-9) (B-E) 1,2,3
- ___ Golden-banded Skipper LR (6-9) (A-D) 2
- ___ Hoary Edge LC (5-10) (A-D) 3,11
- ___ Southern Cloudywing F (5-9) 1,3,28
- ___ Northern Cloudywing F (4-9) 1,3,28,29
- ___ Confused Cloudywing R (5-9) 1
- ___ Outis Skipper V (A) 4
- ___ Hayhurst's Scallopwing LU (6-9) 5

Family: Papilionidae

- ___ Pipevine Swallowtail C (4-11) 66
- ___ Polydamas Swallowtail V (ACD) 66
- ___ Zebra Swallowtail F (3-8) 64
- ___ Black Swallowtail C (4-9) 22,23*
- ___ Ozark Swallowtail R (4-9) (AD) 23
- ___ Eastern Swallowtail C (5-9) 60,65
- ___ Eastern Tiger Swallowtail A (3-10) 25, ++

- ___ Sickle-winged Skipper V (A)
- ___ Horace's Duskywing LC (5-10) 8
- ___ Sleepy Duskywing F (4,5) 8
- ___ Dreamy Duskywing R (4-6) (AB) 54,7,6
- ___ Mottled Duskywing LU (5-7) 9
- ___ Juvenal's Duskywing C (4,5) 8
- ___ Zarrucco Duskywing V (AC) 1,54
- ___ Funereal Duskywing R (6-9) (A-C) 29
- ___ Wild Indigo Duskywing F (6-9) 11,41*
- ___ Common Checkered-Skipper F (6-11) 12
- ___ Tropical Checkered-Skipper V (B) 12
- ___ Desert Checkered-Skipper V (A)
- ___ Northern White-Skipper V (C) 12
- ___ Common Sootywing LU (4-9) 5
- ___ Swarthy Skipper R (5-10) 14
- ___ Clouded Skipper F (5-11) 13
- ___ Least Skipper LC (5-11) 13,15,24*
- ___ Orange Skipperling V (B) 13
- ___ Southern Skipperling U (4-9) (BCD) 13
- ___ Fiery Skipper LA (5-11) 19,24*,13
- ___ Leonard's Skipper U (8-10) (AB) 15,13
- ___ Cobweb Skipper LR (4,5) 14
- ___ Meske's Skipper R (9,10) (ABD) 14
- ___ Peck's Skipper V (A) 24*,13
- ___ Tawny-edged Skipper C (5-10) 15,24*,13
- ___ Crossline Skipper U (5-10) 14,16
- ___ Whirlabout U (5-10) (B-E) 19,13
- ___ Southern Broken-Dash LC (5-10) 21,13
- ___ Northern Broken-Dash U (6-9) 15,13
- ___ Little Glassywing U (5-9) 16
- ___ Sachem LA (5-11) 19, 21,13
- ___ Arogos Skipper V (A) 14
- ___ Delaware Skipper LF (6-9) 13,14
- ___ Byssus Skipper LC (5-9) 14, 24
- ___ Hobomok Skipper U (5-7) (ABD) 15, 24*
- ___ Zabulon Skipper LC (4-9) 16,13
- ___ Yehl Skipper LU (5-10) 18
- ___ Broad-winged Skipper LC (5-10) (C-E) 62,15
- ___ Dion Skipper F (6-9) 17
- ___ Dukes' Skipper LU (6-9) 17
- ___ Dun Skipper F (5-10) 17
- ___ Dusted Skipper LR (4,5) 14
- ___ Pepper and Salt Skipper R (4,5,7) 20,24*,13
- ___ Linda's Roadside-Skipper R (4-9) (ABD) 20,13
- ___ Lace-winged Roadside-Skipper U (4-9) 18
- ___ Carolina Roadside-Skipper R (4,7-9) (A) 18
- ___ Nysa Roadside-Skipper V (A) 21,13
- ___ Common Roadside-Skipper LU (4-8) 20,24*
- ___ Bell's Roadside-Skipper F (4-9) 20
- ___ Dusky Roadside-Skipper U (3-8) (C) 13
- ___ Eufala Skipper U (6-10) 19,13
- ___ Brazilian Skipper V (B-E) 61
- ___ Ocola Skipper U (6-11) 13
- ___ Yucca Giant-Skipper R (3,4) (BCE) 63

- ___ Spicebush Swallowtail A (3-10) 26,67
- ___ Palamedes Swallowtail V (AB)

Family: Pieridae

- ___ Florida White V (A)
- ___ Checkered White LC (2-9) 27
- ___ Cabbage White F (3-12) 27
- ___ Great Southern White V (B)
- ___ Olympia Marble LF (3-5) (A-C) 27
- ___ Falcate Orangetip LC (3-5) 27
- ___ Clouded Sulphur F (3-11) 28,29
- ___ Orange Sulphur A (1-12) 29,41*,11
- ___ Southern Dogface U (6-10) 1,29
- ___ Cloudless Sulphur A (4-12) 30
- ___ Mexican Yellow V (ABC) 1,4
- ___ Orange-barred Sulphur V (AD) 30
- ___ Large Orange Sulphur V (ABC) 1
- ___ Barred Yellow V (BD) 1
- ___ Little Yellow C (4-11) 30,2
- ___ Sleepy Orange C (3-12) 30
- ___ Dainty Sulphur LC (2,5-12) 31

Family: Lycaenidae

- ___ Harvester LU (3-8) 68
- ___ American Copper U (4-9) (ABD) 32
- ___ Bronze Copper R (5-11) (DE) 32
- ___ Great Purple Hairstreak U (3-10) 33
- ___ Coral Hairstreak LC (5-9) (A-D) 25
- ___ Edward's Hairstreak R (5,6) (ABD) 8
- ___ Banded Hairstreak LC (5-7) 8,34
- ___ Hickory Hairstreak U (5-7) (AD) 34
- ___ King's Hairstreak R (5,6) (BCE) 35
- ___ Striped Hairstreak U (5,6) 25
- ___ Red-banded Hairstreak C (4-10) 10
- ___ Juniper Hairstreak F (4-9) 38
- ___ Frosted Elfin U (3,4) (BC) 11
- ___ Henry's Elfin F (2-5) 36,25
- ___ Eastern Pine Elfin F (3-6) 37
- ___ Oak Hairstreak U (5,6) 8
- ___ White M Hairstreak R (3-10) 8
- ___ Gray Hairstreak LA (3-11) ++
- ___ Western Pygmy-Blue R (6-9) (AB)
- ___ Cassius Blue V (D) 1
- ___ Marine Blue V (AB) 1
- ___ Reakirt's Blue U (4-10) (A-D) 1
- ___ Eastern Tailed-Blue A (4-11) 1,3
- ___ Spring Azure F (3-8)
- ___ Summer Azure LC (4-10)
- ___ Appalachian Azure V (A) 39
- ___ Dusky Azure R (4,5) (AC) 40
- ___ Silvery Blue LU (3-5) (A-C) 41

Family: Riodinidae

- ___ Swamp Metalmark LR (6,8,9) (A) 43*
- ___ Northern Metalmark LR (5,6,8) (AB) 42

Family: Nymphalidae

- ___ American Snout F (2-12) 44
- ___ Gulf Fritillary F (5-12) 45
- ___ Julia V (B) 45
- ___ Zebra V (A) 45
- ___ Variegated Fritillary A (4-12) 46,45
- ___ Diana Fritillary LU (5-10) 46
- ___ Great Spangled Fritillary F (5-10) (ABD) 46
- ___ Regal Fritillary R (6-9) (A) 46
- ___ Gorgone Checkerspot F (4-7) 55

___ Silvery Checkerspot	F (5-8) 59,55,56*
___ Phaon Crescent	F (5-10) 47
___ Pearl Crescent	A (4-11) 56
___ Baltimore Checkerspot	LU (6,7) (A) 48*,51*
___ Question Mark	C (1-12) 49*,44,57
___ Eastern Comma	U (2-12) 57*,49*
___ Gray Comma	U (7-10) (AD) 50
___ Mourning Cloak	F (2-6,9-11) 7,6,57,44
___ Milbert's Tortoiseshell	V (A) 49*
___ Painted Lady	F (6-10) 43 +
___ American Lady	LA (3-11) 58
___ Red Admiral	C (3-11) 49
___ Common Buckeye	LA (2-12) 51*,48
___ Common Mestra	V (C)
___ Red-spotted Admiral	C (3-10) 25,6, 7
___ Viceroy	F (5-10) 7,6

Family: Apaturidae

___ Goatweed Leafwing	F (2-12) 52
___ Hackberry Emperor	A (5-9) 44
___ Tawny Emperor	F (5-9) 44

Family: Satyridae

___ Southern Pearly-eye	R (5-9) 18
___ Northern Pearly-eye	U (6-9) 13,20
___ Creole Pearly-eye	LR (5-9) 18
___ Appalachian Brown	LR (5-8) (E) 17
___ Gemmed Satyr	LF (5-10) 13
___ Carolina Satyr	F (4-10) 19,13
___ Georgia Satyr	R (5-9) (CE) 17
___ Little Wood-Satyr	A (5-8) 13
___ Common Wood-Nymph	C (6-10) 14,16,13

Family: Danaidae

___ Monarch	F (5-11) 53
___ Queen	V (AB) 53

Important Host Plants

Butterflies are strongly linked to their host plants. Host plants being the larval food plant of the species caterpillar. Some larva use only a single or a few species. Others, such as the Gray Hairstreak, use a huge variety of plants. Some species are almost always found associated with the key food plants and others wander widely as adults to nectar on flowering species that may not be related to the host plant. Some species, like Pearly-eyes, never nectar at flowers but of course do have a larval food plant. The list below is focused on plant species which occur in Arkansas and on plants associated with the larvae in the wild and not in laboratories. Not all hosts for each species are given. The first number after each butterfly is usually the major foodplant. Asterisks (such as 43*) show food use of only the asterisk marked species on that numbered line. A ++ after a butterfly entry denotes wide usage of many plant species. A + inside the plant brackets signifies additional species or genera not listed. Note that the Harvester butterfly larvae feed on aphids. The aphid bearing plants are given on that species.

1. Legumes (*Fabaceae*)
2. Hog Peanut (*Amphicarpa bracteata*)
3. Tick trefoils (*Desmodium*)
4. Acacia (*Acacia angustissima*)
5. Lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*)
6. Poplar (*Populus alba, heterophylla, deltoides*)

7. Willows (*Salix nigra, sericea, discolor, exigua, caroliniana*)
8. Oaks (*Quercus*)
9. New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
10. Sumac (*Rhus copallina, aromatica*)
11. Wild Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)
12. Mallows (*Abutilon, Anoda, Hibiscus, Modiola, Sida*)
13. Grasses (*Poaceae*)
14. Bluestems (*Andropogon gerardii, scoparius, virginicus*)
15. Panic grass (*Panicum*)
16. Tridens (*Tridens flavus*)
17. Sedges (*Carex hyalinolepis, stricta, +*)
18. Cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*)
19. Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*)
20. Inland Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)
21. Crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*)
22. Umbels (*Daucus, Cicuta, Conium, Angelica*)
23. Umbels (*Thaspium barbinode*, Taenidia*, Zizia aurea*)
24. Bluegrass & Gama Grass (*Tripsacum, Poa pratensis**)
25. Cherry (*Prunus serotina, americana, virginiana, +*)
26. Laurels (*Sassafras albidum, Linderia benzoin*)
27. Crucifers (*Brassica, Lepidium, Arabis, Cardamine*)
28. Clover (*Trifolium repens, pratense*)
29. Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa, lupulina*)
30. Partridge Pea, Senna (*Chamaecrista, Senna*)
31. Composites (*Dyssodia, Bidens, Cosmos*)
32. Dock (*Rumex acetosella, crispus, verticillatus, obtusifolius*)
33. Mistletoe (*Phoradendron leucarpum*)
34. Hickory (*Carya glabra, ovata, cordiformis*)
35. Sweetleaf (*Symplocos tinctoria*)
36. Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
37. Pine (*Pinus echinata*)
38. Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
39. Cohosh & Viburnum (*Cimicifuga racemosa, V. acerifolium*)
40. Goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*)
41. Vetch & Crown Vetch (*Vicia villosa, caroliniana, Coronilla**)
42. Ragwort (*Senecio obovatus*)
43. Thistles (*Cirsium arvense, muticum*, vulgare, altissimum**)
44. Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis, laevigata, tenuifolia*)
45. Passion Vine (*Passiflora lutea, incarnata**)
46. Violets (*Viola pedatifida, lanceolata, pedata, rafinesquii, +*)
47. Fogfruit (*Phyla lanceolata, nodiflora*)
48. Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*, rugellii, major, hookeriana*)
49. Nettles (*Urtica dioica*, urens*)
50. Currants (*Ribes missouriense*)
51. Gerardia (*Aureolaria grandiflora*, flava, pedicularia*)
52. Goatweed (*Croton capitatus, monanthogynus*)
53. Milkweeds (*Asclepias amplexicaulis, syriaca, incarnate, +*)
54. Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
55. Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus, petiolaris, divaricatus*)
56. Asters (*Aster umbellatus*, novae-angliae, laevis, pilosus, +*)
57. Elms (*Ulmus americana*, rubra, pumila*)
58. Rabbit Tobacco, Pussytoes (*Gnaphalium, Antennaria*)
59. Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)
60. Prickly Ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum, clavaherculis*)
61. Canna (*Canna generalis*)
62. Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*)
63. Yucca (*Yucca louisianensis, smalliana, glauca*)
64. Pawpaw (*Asimina parviflora, triloba*)
65. Hop Tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*)
66. Pipevine (*Aristolochia serpentaria, reticulata, tomentosa*)
67. Red Bay (*Persea borbonia*)
68. Aphids on (*Alnus, Ilex, Fraxinus, Fagus, Acer, Smilax*)

Arkansas Butterfly Checklist



This list covers all the butterfly species that have been documented for Arkansas. Including vagrants, this listing currently stands at 158 species. Entries after the species names include abundance ratings, flight months and regional distribution as further delineated inside. Final numbered entries refer to the related host plants. See the [Important Host Plant](#) listing on back.