Where to find Butterflies

Butterflies and day-flying moths are usually associated with fields and forest edges, but many species can be found inhabiting the interior of the forest.

Look for butterflies nearly anywhere around the Nature Center. Most butterflies lay their eggs on plants, so the species you see may be determined by the plant community where you are searching. For instance, Eastern Tiger Swallowtails lay eggs on Tulip Poplars and Monarchs lay eggs on milkweed, so you are most likely to see those butterflies where their host plants are growing.

Other areas where butterflies are commonly encountered include the Nature Center's fields and meadows. The powerline corridor often hosts species that like forest edges and clearings. In these open areas, butterflies are usually foraging on the variety of blooming plants.

How to observe Butterflies

Binoculars, cameras, and insect nets are commonly used tools. Binoculars allow viewers to see species up close as they bask in the sun or forage on flowers.

Cameras with zoom lenses allow viewers to capture images of resting or feeding butterflies. They come in so many different colors and patterns and make great photography subjects when sitting still on a perch. Beginning butterfly observers can use pictures to later identify the specimens being observed.

Insect nets and clear collection containers are invaluable tools for observers interested in studying butterflies up close. A captured specimen can be handled carefully and inspected to determine the species. Close-up photos can be taken as well to help differentiate similar-looking species from one another.

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center



Butterfly & Day-flying Moth Checklist



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Butterflies

Skippers

- □ Silver-spotted Skipper
- Juvenal's Duskywing
- Common Checkered Skipper
- Common Sootywing
- Least Skipper
- Peck's Skipper
- Little Glassywing
- Hobomok Skipper
- □ Zabulon Skipper
- Dun Skipper

Swallowtails

- □ Black Swallowtail
- Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
- Spicebush Swallowtail

Whites and Sulphurs

- Cabbage White
- Clouded Sulphur

Gossamer-wings

- Banded Hairstreak
- □ White M Hairstreak
 □

- Eastern-tailed Blue
- Spring Azure
- Summer Azure

Brush-foots

- Monarch
- □ Great Spangled Fritillary
- Meadow Fritillary
- Pearl Crescent
- Common Buckeye
- Question Mark
- □ Comma
- Mourning Cloak
- Red Admiral
- Painted Lady
- American Lady
- Red-spotted Purple
- □ Viceroy
- Northern Pearly-Eye
- □ Common Wood-Nymph

Moths (day-flying)

- Ailanthus Webworm Moth
- □ Eight-Spotted Forester Moth
- Grape Leafflolder Moth
- □ Grapeleaf Skeletonizer
- Hummingbird Clearwing
- Snowberry Clearwing
- Virginia Ctenucha Moth
- □ Yellow-collared Scape Moth