



NABA St. Louis

April 2010

FLUTTERBY

NEWS AND EVENTS

2010 Calendar of Events

Here are the upcoming events. Mark your calendars to save the dates! Additional walks and social events may be added later.

Directions are available on our chapter web site, www.nabastl.org. Click on Activities and Events, then click on Field Trip sites and Directions. Field trips last between two and three hours.



Falcate Orangetip

Pat Garner Photo

Date and Time		Event	Location
April 10	10.00 a.m.	State Butterfly Count	Bush Conservation Area
May 29	10.00 a.m.	State Butterfly Count	Bush Conservation Area
June 5	10:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk	Mark Peters' Prairie
June 26	10.00 a.m.	State Butterfly Count	Bush Conservation Area
July 4	10:00 a.m.	4 th of July Butterfly Count	Bush Conservation Area Note: There is a \$3 fee for each 4 th of July count participant.
July 10	9:00 a.m. Please note early start time	4 th of July Butterfly Count	Shaw Nature Reserve. Note: There is a \$3 fee for each 4 th of July count participant.
July 17	10:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk	Weldon Spring Site - Howell Prairie Garden led by Jeannie Moe
July 31	10.00 a.m.	4 th of July Butterfly Count	Horseshoe Lake State Park Note: There is a \$3 fee for each 4 th of July count participant.
August 28	10.00 a.m.	Seasonal Butterfly Count	Horseshoe Lake State Park
September 18	10:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk	Route 66 State Park
October 16	10:00 a.m.	Butterfly Walk	Bush Conservation Area



March Butterfly Report

By Yvonne Homeyer

The first butterfly report in 2010 came from Jim Ziebol who observed an overwintering **Eastern Comma** at Horseshoe Lake on 3/9. All the other butterflies were reported by Pat Garner from the Garner Farm that she and husband Jim own in Lincoln County. Pat and Jim Garner counted 7 Eastern Commas on 3/10. Pat saw her first **Mourning Cloak** on 3/18, along with 3 E. Commas. She also saw a Mourning Cloak on 3/19, 3/22, and 3/24. She believes there were only two individuals. She also saw E. Commas on 3/22, 3/24, and 3/29. The first **Question Mark**, a worn individual, was flying about on 3/29. So, for the month of March, three species were seen.

Contrast this year with 2009, when 14 species were observed in March! The "missing" 11 species not seen this March are: Gray Comma, Goatweed Leafwing, Orange Sulphur, Spring Azure, Cabbage White, Juvenal's Duskywing, Horace's Duskywing, Juniper Hairstreak, Clouded Sulphur, Zebra Swallowtail, Falcate Orangetip, and Common Roadside Skipper. Hopefully, we will be seeing these species and more in April.

Contributors: Pat Garner, Jim Ziebol.

Butterfly names in **bold type** indicate the first report of the year.

Garden Reports: None yet!

Tips for Photographing Butterflies

By Pat Garner

I have been asked many times over the last few years: "How do you get so close to the butterflies?" I am by no means a professional, but these are a few of the things that have worked for me:

- Wait for the butterfly to begin nectaring if it is on a flower. The butterfly's focus seems to be totally on the sweet nectar, and not on you.
- Move VERY SLOWLY towards your subject, whether it is a butterfly or an insect.
- Get as close as you feel is safe without frightening your target and snap a photo so as not to completely miss the target should it decide to fly.
- Hold the camera so the butterfly can't see your face. I've noticed that if I do this, the butterfly isn't as likely to fly.
- Continue to move forward slowly, extending your arms toward the butterfly and snapping every step or two, which gives you a better and better capture. (When you edit your photos, you can delete all but the last shot.) I think that by moving the camera straight toward the butterfly, the target doesn't detect the movement as easily as when you move around from side to side. In this way, I've been able (I'm sure others have, too) to get within 3" of many of my subjects. And when you get that capture, it makes you feel soooo good!

Happy snapping ... I hope this will be a great butterfly year for everyone.



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More Bad News About Monarchs

By Yvonne Homeyer

In the last few years, climate change and illegal logging have wreaked havoc on the oyamel fir forests in Mexico where the Monarchs overwinter. Despite the designation of these limited areas as nature preserves for the Monarchs, illegal logging has continued, often at night. The result is a canopy punctured with openings which allow the cold temperatures, rain, and snow to fall on the Monarchs resting on the fir trees. Nature designed the canopy to act as an umbrella over the Monarchs, preventing the cold and moisture from penetrating to the ground below. In addition, climate change has resulted in colder, wetter winters in recent years. That additional moisture and cold can now filter down to the resting Monarchs. In addition, this past winter devastating floods have all but destroyed two towns closest to the reserves of El Rosario and Sierra Chincua.

Because of the vast mortality of the Monarchs last month, please report all Monarchs seen so we can include your sightings in our monthly Butterfly Report—and plant milkweeds, as many as you can, to help these butterflies breed – they will need all the help they can get this year.

And, from Jim Lovett at Monarch Watch:

A few quick facts:

- An unprecedented amount of rainfall in eastern Michoacan in the first four days of February led to landslides and massive flooding in Angangueo and the surrounding area. About 50 people lost their lives in landslides and Angangueo was severely damaged. The story of the storm and the aftermath are extensively chronicled on our Blog.
- A series of storms in January and February have taken a toll on the monarch population. The final estimate on the mortality suffered by the monarchs is not yet in but it is clear that over 50% of the overwintering population died as a result the harsh winter conditions.
- Because of the severe mortality at the overwintering colonies, the number of monarchs returning to the breeding areas this spring will be fewer than at any time since the colonies became known to science in 1975. These numbers are so low that they are certain to impact the number of monarchs that return to Mexico next fall.

The Current Board of NABA St. Louis

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Vice President	Yvonne Homeyer	swamp metalmark(at)sbcglobal.net
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you would like to join NABA, please fill out this application. You will become a member of both NABA and the local St. Louis Chapter, if you live within the St. Louis metropolitan area or nearby Illinois area:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Dues are \$30 (regular) and \$40 (family) per year. Please make check payable to NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION. Mail this form with your check to: Scott Marshall, Membership, 609 West Lockwood, St. Louis, MO 63119.