

Horseshoe Lake Count

- Mary Eileen Rufkahr

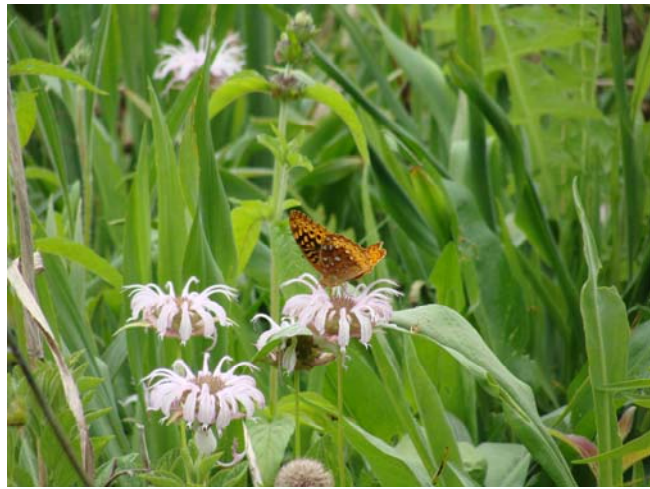
On May 31, 2009, the NABA-St. Louis chapter carried out a count at Horseshoe Lake. Jeannie Moe and Kraig Paradise surveyed Walker Island, and Sherry McCowan, Mary Eileen Rufkahr, Dale Hallett, Evelyn Luecke, and Yvonne Homeyer surveyed the Hwy. 203 side. This year, due to high water at the end of Layton Road, we were not able to check the area where Broad-winged Skippers and Dukes's Skippers have been seen. The count produced 23 species and 261 individuals.

Species	#
Pipevine Swallowtail	1
Tiger Swallowtail	4
Cabbage White	40
Clouded Sulphur	18
Orange Sulphur	117
Little Yellow	1
Bronze Copper	5
Eastern Tailed-Blue	8
Summer Azure	8
Variegated Fritillary	1
Eastern Comma	4
Painted Lady	4
Red Admiral	3
Hackberry Emperor	18
Monarch	5
Silver-spotted Skipper	6
Southern Cloudywing	6
Hayhurst's Scallopwing	1
Least Skipper	7
Tawny-edged Skipper	1
Delaware Skipper	1
Zabulon Skipper	1
Dun Skipper	1

May Butterfly Report

-Yvonne Homeyer

St. Louis Area Sightings. On 5/2, 13 species were seen on Pat & Jim Garner's farm in Lincoln County: 3 Pipevine Swallowtails, 1 Cabbage White, 1 Falcate Orangetip, 1 Orange Sulphur, many Eastern Tailed-Blues, many Pearl Crescents, 1 Juniper Hairstreak, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Painted Lady, 4 Goatweed Leafwings, 4 Monarchs, 6 Juvenal's Duskywings, and 7 **Common Roadside Skippers** (Pat Garner, Yvonne Homeyer, Evelyn Luecke). On 5/8, Pat reported



Great Spangled Fritillary, 24 May 2009, Mark Peters Prairie, Jefferson County, MO -Yvonne Homeyer photo

Red-banded Hairstreak, American Lady, many Eastern Tailed-Blues, 1 Pipevine Swallowtail, 1 Monarch, many Silver-spotted Skippers, 1 female Black Swallowtail, many Pearl Crescents, and 1 Horace's Duskywing. Jim Ziebol found a **Cloudless Sulphur** in the City on 5/9, and at Horseshoe Lake, he saw a Spicebush Swallowtail – the first time he ever saw that species at Horseshoe Lake. Jim also saw 2 **Red-spotted Purples** at Horseshoe Lake on 5/9. On 5/10, a **Zabulon Skipper** was seen at Lost Valley Trail (YH) and at Busch (JZ). Besides the Zabulon, only a handful of butterflies were seen at Busch on 5/10 – one Red-spotted Purple, a Silver-spotted Skipper, several Eastern Tailed-Blues, and several Pearl Crescents (YH, JZ). Although it was overcast, it was warm enough (65 degrees) for butterflies but not even a sulphur or a Cabbage White was flying.



Harvester, 24 May 2009, Mark Peters Prairie, Jefferson County, MO -Yvonne Homeyer photo

At the Garner Farm in Lincoln County, Pat Garner reported a lot of butterfly activity throughout the month. On 5/11, Pat saw 4 Pipevine Swallowtails, 2 Black Swallowtails, 1 Zebra Swallowtail, 1 Giant Swallowtail, various sulphurs, 8 Goatweed Leafwings, 1 Monarch laying eggs, 3 Falcate Orangetips (1 male, 2 females), 1 Juniper Hairstreak, 1 Question Mark, 3 Common Roadside-Skippers, one Zabulon Skipper, and numerous Silver-spotted Skippers, Eastern

Tailed-Blues, and Pearl Crescents (Pat Garner). Pat found the first **Delaware Skipper** on 5/13, along with a Mourning Cloak. Another Mourning Cloak was flying on 5/17, as was a Red Admiral. On 5/18, she found 1 Giant, 2 Pipevine, and 2 Spicebush Swallowtails, 2 Orange Sulphurs, a dozen Eastern Tailed-Blues, 1 Pearl Crescent, 1 Monarch, 2 Goatweed Leafwings, 1 Zabulon Skipper, and 2 Common Roadside-Skippers.

At Horseshoe Lake on 5/14, Jim Ziebol found 2 **Viceroy**s and 2 **Least Skippers**. At Young CA on 5/17, the most numerous butterfly was Pipevine Swallowtail (12); other butterflies seen were 2 **Little Wood Satyr**s, 1 **Bell's Roadside Skipper**, 1 Zebra Swallowtail, 3 Orange Sulphurs, 1 Cabbage White, 10 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 4 Pearl Crescents, 2 Silver-spotted Skippers, and 1 Zabulon Skipper (YH). At Route 66 State Park on 5/17, Yvonne added 3 more species for the day: Monarch, American Lady, and Least



Skipper. Viceroy and Little Wood Satyr were seen by Pat Garner at the Garner Farm in Lincoln County on 5/19, as well as **Tawny-edged Skipper**, 10 Goatweed Leafwings, 1 Pearl Crescent, 4 Giant Swallowtails, 3 Pipevine Swallowtails, 2 Zabulon Skippers, 1 female Falcate Orangetip, 1 Orange Sulphur, and 2 Common Roadside-Skippers. A Giant Swallowtail, 2 Pipevines and a Goatweed were chasing each other. A **Checkered White** was reported at Horseshoe Lake on 5/20 by Jim Ziebol, and Pat Garner found 2 **Northern Cloudywings** on 5/21 at her farm.

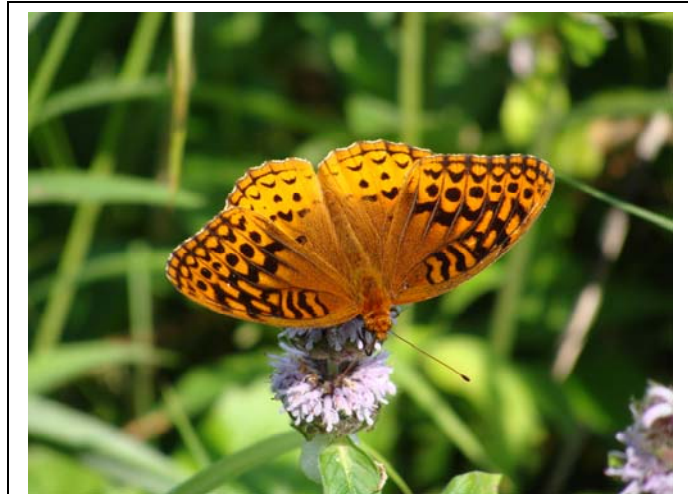


Mark Peters observed 2 Harvesters and a **Great Spangled Fritillary** at his Jefferson County prairie on 5/22. A Peck's Skipper was seen at Busch Conservation Area on 5/25 by Scott Marshall. A **Little Yellow** was flying at the Garner Farm on 5/25, along with 3 Northern Cloudywings, 2 Giant Swallowtails, 1 Pipevine Swallowtail, 2 Red-banded Hairstreaks, and many Little Wood Satyr's (Pat Garner).

Jim Ziebol, Yvonne

Homeyer, Sue Gustafson, Dianne Benjamin, Pat Garner, and Yvonne's guests Ellie Thompson and Dick Brown from Arizona conducted a count for the Mo. Dept. of Conservation at Busch C.A. on 5/23. Sixteen species and 92 individuals were observed. Highlights included 6 Giant Swallowtails, 26 Least Skippers, a **Northern Broken-Dash**, and a **Dun Skipper**. On 5/24, at Mark Peters' prairie, 18 species and 90 individuals were counted. Two Harvesters sat patiently on the ground for over 15 minutes. Other butterflies of note included 12 Summer Azures puddling near the creek, 1 **Silvery Checkerspot**, 15 **Hackberry Emperors**, 25 Little Wood-Satyrs, and six species of skippers – Silver-spotted, Northern Cloudywing, **Swarthy**, **Little Glassywing**, **Hobomok**, and Zabulon (Mark Peters, Jim Ziebol, Yvonne Homeyer, Ellie Thompsom, Dick Brown).

In May, Leslie Limber found the following butterflies in the New Melle area: Pipevine, Tiger, and Giant Swallowtails, Cabbage White, Great Spangled Fritillary, Summer Azure, Pearl Crescent, Least Skipper, and Little Wood Satyr.



Great Spangled Fritillary, 7 June 2009, Mark Peters Prairie, Jefferson County, MO
-Yvonne Homeyer photo

Sherry McCowan observed Orange Sulphurs and Cabbage Whites in Forest Park during the month. Bob Noe saw a Monarch and several Cabbage Whites at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

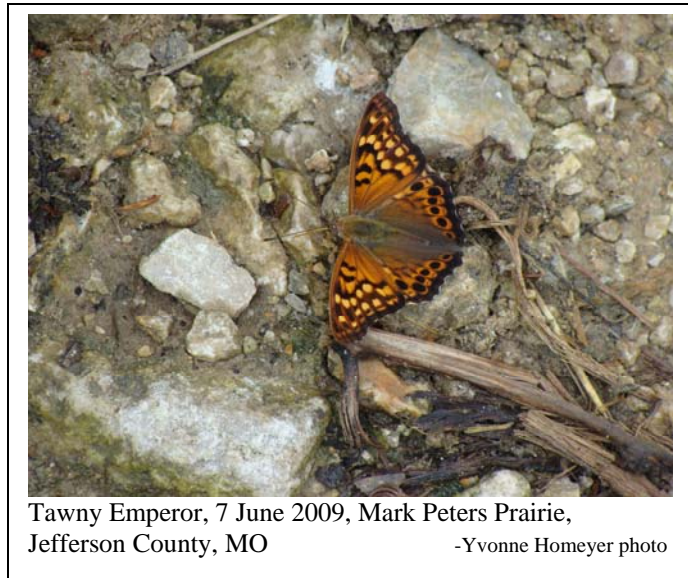
On 5/31, seven members conducted the Fourth of July Count at Horseshoe Lake. For a complete listing of all sightings, see the separate article about this count. Highlights included 5 **Bronze Coppers**, a **Hayhurst's Scallopwing**, and a **Variiegated Fritillary**. Jeannie Moe, Kraig Paradise, Sherry McCowan, Mary Eileen Rufkahr, Dale Hallett, Evelyn Luecke, and Yvonne Homeyer participated in the count.

Dent County: Dave Berry, who relocated to Dent County in the Ozarks about a year and a half ago, found 2 Golden-banded Skippers and a Harvester on 5/20 near the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Other sightings that day included 3 Pipevine, 8 Zebra, 3 Giant, 3 Tiger, and 4 Spicebush Swallowtails, 2 Orange Sulphurs, 22 Eastern Tailed-Blues, 13 Summer Azures, 2 Great Spangled Fritillaries, 3 Silvery Checkerspots, 15 Pearl Crescents, 10 Buckeyes, 8 Red-spotted Purples, 9 Goatweed Leafwings, 8 Little Wood Satyrs, 1 Monarch, 6 Silver-spotted Skippers, 1 Hoary Edge, 3 Southern Cloudywings, 14 Juvenal Duskywings, and 3 Zabulon Skippers. And, Dave reports, American Coppers are a common yard butterfly. [YMH Note: American Copper has been extirpated from the St.

Louis vicinity. The last report known to NABA is a sighting of two American Coppers near Riverlands in 1995.]

Garden Reports: Tom Krauska has been busy with the butterflies in his Crestwood garden. On 4/29, he saw a Question Mark flying around looking for host plants. On 5/1, he released a Black Swallowtail and saw a female laying eggs on Rue. A **Peck's Skipper** was seen on 5/14. As of 5/16, Tom "Terrific" Krauska had released 6 Giant Swallowtails at his Crestwood home. On 5/27, he released 4 Monarchs and observed a Giant Swallowtail laying eggs on his Hop tree. He also observed wasps emerging from a parasitized Painted Lady chrysalis.

A Monarch was fluttering around Yvonne's condo garden on 5/3 but no caterpillars were found on her Common or Swamp Milkweed plants. Linda Virga saw a Mourning Cloak at her Affton home on 5/15. Mary Eileen Rufkahr saw 1 Tiger Swallowtail and several Cabbage Whites in her Bridgeton garden on 5/23. A Spicebush



Tawny Emperor, 7 June 2009, Mark Peters Prairie, Jefferson County, MO -Yvonne Homeyer photo

Swallowtail was meandering through the Brentwood Forest condos on 5/24 (YH). Bob and Claudia Noe saw a Red Admiral in their yard and they found 5 Black Swallowtail caterpillars on parsley. Karen Van Berkel saw Cabbage White and Eastern Tailed-Blue (5/23), Orange Sulphur (5/26), and a Peck's Skipper (5/30). Mary Eileen Rufkahr saw her first Silver-spotted Skipper on 5/30. A Summer Azure was nectaring on *Oenothera speciosa* and *Blephilia ciliata* in Sherry McCowan's garden.

Contributors: Dave Berry, Pat Garner, Dale Hallett, Yvonne Homeyer, Leslie Limberg, Scott Marshall, Sherry McCowan, Jeannie Moe, Bob and Claudia Noe, Kraig Paradise, Mark Peters, Mary Eileen Rufkahr, Karen Van Berkel, Linda Virga, Jim Ziebol.

Butterfly names in **bold type** indicate the first report of the year for the St. Louis vicinity.

Mark Peters' Prairie

-Mary Eileen Rufkahr

NABA/St. Louis was very lucky to be extended an invitation to visit Mark Peters' prairie on Sunday, June 7th. Many members took advantage of the warm, partly sunny day to come out and see the beautiful prairie Mark has created and worked on for so many years. Members were not disappointed in the number and variety of butterflies they saw. Binoculars and cameras captured various species including (but not limited to) a Harvester, **numerous** Great Spangled Fritillary, Bell's Roadside Skipper, Mourning Cloak, Comma, Azure, Silver Spotted Skipper and Silvery Checkerspot. Mark made himself available to answer any questions and give background on the plants and butterflies seen in the prairie.



Pat Lynn, Mark Peters, and Pat Garner, 7 June 2009, Mark Peters Prairie, Jefferson County, MO

-Yvonne Homeyer photo

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