

# NABA Butterfly Count Column

## NEWS FROM THE 2004 COUNTS

*by Ann Swengel*

In 2004, 467 butterfly counts were submitted in time for publication in the Count report. This was the same number of counts as in 2003 and a slight reduction from 2002 (503) and 2001 (481), but still well above the number in 2000 (425) and all years before that.


The same three counts continued their perfect attendance record of reporting in each of the 30 years of the program (Berkeley, California; Gilpin County, Colorado; Lower Pearl River, Louisiana-Mississippi) — congratulations to them! Other venerable counts include Willow Slough, California (28 years); High Line Canal, Colorado (27 years); San Joaquin, California and Ramsey Canyon, Arizona (26 years); and Mount Diablo, California and Holden Arboretum, Ohio (25 years). We all look forward to when we've been counting butterflies for that long.

The 434 counts in the United States in 2004 (428 in 2003, 417 in 2002) occurred in 48 states (counting Washington D.C. as a state). Only one other year (2001) had as many states represented. Missing in 2004 were Washington D.C. and Delaware (both last counted in 2003) and Hawaii (last counted in 1989). Perhaps 2005 will be the year when all states will have counts in the program! In 2004, the state with the most counts continued to bounce back and forth between Florida (the most in 2004, with 47; 40 in 2003 and 32 in 2002) and Texas (45 in 2004; 43 in 2003; 48 in 2002).

The 36 Canadian counts in 2004 (56 in 2003, 84 in 2002, 79 in 2001) occurred in 4 provinces (5 in 2001-3). The province with the most counts was Ontario (23 in 2004, 25 in 2002-3, 23 in 2001). Mexico had 1 count, with 93 species, in one state in 2004 (2 counts in 1 state in 2001-3, down from the record 7

in 3 states in 1999 (many of these published in 2000). The all-time species records are 175 on La Bajada, Nayarit (1998) and 169 on Puerto Vallarta (1991).

The most species on a single United States count (91) occurred at Patagonia, Arizona, followed by 89 on the Ramsey Canyon, Arizona count. Gilpin County, Colorado came in third with 80; this count had the most species ever on a U.S. count (111) in 1998. The next highest species counts on United States counts in 2004 were 75 on the Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, Texas count and 72 on the Yuba Pass, California count.

In all, for the 467 counts being published here, 3934 observers (the sum of the number of people on each count; some people are counted more than once since they participated in more than one count) tallied 505,307 adult butterflies in 6782 party-hours and 20,519 party-miles. The most observers (154) occurred on Palm Harbor, Florida; the most individual butterflies (56,292) on Delta National Forest, Mississippi; the most party-hours (125) on Salisbury, Connecticut, and the most party-miles (244) on MacGregor Point Provincial Park, Ontario. The average 2004 count has been held for 7.9 years, and had 8.4 observers tallying 1082 individuals of 33.2 species in 14.5 party-hours and 44.2 party-miles. 

### TO ORDER THE 2004 REPORT...

Price is \$10 (NABA members) or \$15 (non-members). Send your check or money order payable to NABA (in U.S. dollars) to: NABA Butterfly Count, 4 Delaware Road, Morristown, NJ 07960 USA. For more information, visit [www.naba.org](http://www.naba.org).