

# Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association **AUGUST, 2014**

WEB SITE: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/>

## 1 NEXT FIELD TRIPS Mark your calendar!

### Butterflies of the Avoca/Blue River Area Saturday, August 9, 10:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

In some years this can be the best butterfly trip of the year! This trip will highlight several areas in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, including Avoca Prairie and Savanna State Natural Area in Iowa County, and Blue River unit in Grant County. Leader will be **Mike Reese**. We expect to see late butterflies and several unusual southern immigrants. A hat and long pants are recommended. Bring a lunch and binoculars (the closer they focus the better). A few extra binoculars are available. This is a joint trip of the Southern Wis. Butterfly Association and Madison Audubon Society. Meet at 10:30 a.m. The trip may last until 4 p.m. Allow 50 minute travel time from Middleton. **DIRECTIONS:** Take Hwy 14 west to Lone Rock, south on Hwy 130 then turn right on Hwy 133. Go west about 5.0 miles, turn right on Hay Road, and drive north to the parking lot just before the creek. Call Mike at (920) 787-2341 only if you have a question about the trip.

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

1. **NEXT FIELD TRIPS:**
  - ▶ Butterflies of the Avoca/Blue River Area, Saturday, August 10.
  - ▶ Butterflies and Blossoms at Pheasant Branch, Saturday, August 24.
2. **HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT TRIPS**
  - Mud Lake NABA Butterfly Count.
  - Butterflies & Dragonflies of Swamp Lovers Preserve.
  - Madison Butterfly Count.
  - Butterflies and Dragonflies of Watts Lake, Riveredge and Forest Beach Migratory Preserve.
  - Pretty Things with Wings
3. **TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL**
4. **Butterfly Reports of July, 2014**

### Butterflies and Blossoms at Pheasant Branch Conservancy Saturday, August 23: 10:00 a.m.- noon

Join us on a walk through the lovely Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton. The many beautiful asters should be in bloom, and we hope lots of butterflies will be nectaring on these flowers. We can expect several species, including Monarchs, sulfurs, blues, and possibly some southern immigrants, such as Common Buckeye and Painted Lady. You never know what you may find! We will also learn more about restoration efforts at the conservancy. Long pants, a hat, water, and sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. Close-focusing binoculars are also useful. (We will have a few extra binoculars.) We will hike two or three miles. Leader is **Dreux Watermolen**.

Co-sponsors are SWBA, Friends of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy and the Madison Audubon Society. Contact the trip leader only if you have a question about the trip: Dreux Watermolen: (608) 266-8931, [dreux.watermolen@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:dreux.watermolen@Wisconsin.gov).

Meet in Middleton at 10:00 a.m. The trip will last about 2 hours. **Directions:** At the west end of Lake Mendota take Allen Boulevard north, then turn left on Century Avenue (Co. M). Track your mileage as you turn right onto Old Creek Road and then right on Pheasant Branch Road going north 1.2 miles to the small county parking lot on the right, at the beginning of the gated road.

## 2 HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT FIELD TRIPS

### Highlights of Mud Lake NABA Butterfly Count

Like all NABA counts this annual count in Columbia County was done in a single day (July 1) within a 15 mile diameter circle, just like Christmas Bird Counts. The main areas include Rowen Creek, Schoenenberg Marsh, Rocky Run, McKenzie, and Mud Lake Wildlife Area. This was the 26th year of censusing within this circle. In the past we have had little or no time to census in the several properties owned by **Madison Audubon** (Goose Pond, Amy Prairie, etc.) which are within the circle. But this year Audubon's Goose Pond Resident Manager, **Mark Martin**, and several others (including interns) conducted the census on the Audubon properties so that their data could be included in the count. They expect to continue censusing each year. *Thanks to Madison Audubon for helping out!* The rest of the circle was done by Peter Fissel, Jim Otto and the Leglers.



**Banded Hairstreak.**  
Photo by Jim Otto.

Altogether we found 39 species and 1,059 butterflies, in a total of 23 hours of observation. That is the 3rd highest species of the 26 years! That was partly due to the greater number of hours observing, but also partly due to *genuinely good butterfly numbers and species diversity this year!* That was a bit of a surprise considering the bitter cold winter and cold spring!

Here are the results:

Red-spotted Purple 1  
Viceroy 7  
Eastern Comma 4  
**Gray Comma 2**  
Question Mark 4  
Eastern Tailed-Blue 12  
Summer Azure 8  
**Baltimore Checkerspot 24**  
American Copper 1  
**Bronze Copper 10**  
Northern Crescent 36  
Pearl Crescent 4  
Hackberry Emperor 2

**Tawny Emperor 6**  
**Aphrodite Fritillary 6**  
Great Spangled Fritillary 45  
Banded Hairstreak 8  
Coral Hairstreak 4  
**Edward's Hairstreak 62**  
American Lady 15  
**Painted Lady 5**  
Red Admiral 22  
Common Wood Nymph 18  
Little Wood-Satyr 4  
Northern Pearly-Eye 2  
**Monarch 92**

Silver-spotted Skipper 22  
Delaware Skipper 21  
Dun Skipper 1  
European Skipper 48  
Least Skipper 16  
**Mulberry Wing 8**  
Northern Broken-Dash 2  
Clouded Sulphur 442  
Orange Sulphur 42  
Black Swallowtail 6  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1  
Mourning Cloak 12  
Cabbage White 32

### Highlights of Butterflies and Dragonflies of Swamp Lovers Preserve

This field trip was held on the 4th of July and the fireworks were provided by butterflies and dragonflies! We had a very good turnout of 28 people. Gerry Goth provided scones and explained the history of the preserve. We found 25 species of butterflies and 12 species of dragonflies. The highlights included **Giant Swallowtail, Hickory Hairstreak, Striped Hairstreak, Meadow Fritillary, Baltimore Checkerspot, Northern Cloudywing, and Dion Skipper**. The most interesting dragonfly sighting was a **Red Saddlebags** that sat still for us!



Participants gather at the Swamp Lovers' pond to enjoy butterflies and dragonflies.



**Striped Hairstreak.**  
Photo by Mark Johnson.



**Red Saddlebags.**  
Photo by Greg Hottman.

## Butterflies seen were:

Eastern Tailed-Blue 2  
Summer Azure 1  
**Baltimore Checkerspot** 4  
Northern Crescent 1  
Hackberry Emperor 1  
Great Spangled Fritillary 6  
**Meadow Fritillary** 4  
Banded Hairstreak 6  
Coral Hairstreak 2

**Striped Hairstreak** 1  
**Hickory Hairstreak** 2  
Red Admiral 2  
**Monarch** 4  
Common Wood Nymph 3  
Delaware Skipper 1  
**Dion Skipper** 1  
Least Skipper 5  
**Northern Cloudywing** 1

Silver-spotted Skipper 1  
Clouded Sulphur 15  
Orange Sulphur 6  
Black Swallowtail 2  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1  
**Giant Swallowtail** 1  
Mourning Cloak 1  
Cabbage White 6

## Dragonflies seen were:

Common Green Darner  
Twelve-spotted Skimmer  
Widow Skimmer  
Common Whitetail

**Halloween Pennant**  
Eastern Pondhawk  
Blue Dasher  
Dot-tailed Whiteface

Black Saddlebags  
**Red Saddlebags**  
White-faced Meadowhawk  
**Band-winged Meadowhawk**

## Highlights of Madison NABA Butterfly Count

This was the 24th annual Madison Count. The field trip in the morning found 18 species. Throughout the day, 13 counters in five groups found a total of 28 species and 292 individuals. The skies were too cloudy for best results. This is the 2nd lowest number of species in the 24 years! And the individuals rank in the lowest quarter of the 24 years. But **Monarchs** encouragingly had the best numbers of the past 4 years. And the **Hickory Hairstreak** is only the 2nd one found on this count.



**Hickory Hairstreak.**  
Photo by Ginny Nelson.

Viceroy 1  
Question Mark 1  
Eastern Tailed-Blue 1  
Summer Azure 8  
**Baltimore Checkerspot** 14  
Northern Crescent 5  
**Aphrodite Fritillary** 1  
Great Spangled Fritillary 36  
Banded Hairstreak 28  
Coral Hairstreak 3

**Hickory Hairstreak** 1  
Red Admiral 11  
**Monarch** 28  
Little Wood-Satyr 2  
**Eyed Brown** 1  
Common Wood-Nymph 15  
**Dion Skipper** 1  
Dun Skipper 1  
Least Skipper 20  
**Mulberry Wing** 3

Northern Broken-Dash 4  
Silver-spotted Skipper 5  
Clouded Sulphur 54  
Orange Sulphur 14  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1  
Black Swallowtail 3  
Mourning Cloak 9  
Cabbage White 23

## Highlights of Butterflies and Dragonflies of Watts Lake, Riveredge, and Forest Beach Migratory Preserve.

This trip was filled up and we found 25 species of butterfly but were unable to locate the target species (Swamp Metalmark). Probably their flight period was running late so they weren't out yet. (Also we had much overcast during the day.) We had great



**Slaty Skimmer (male).**

views of the **very rare Slaty Skimmer** (dragonfly). We attempted to find the super-rare Comet Darner that had been seen in recent days but with overcast skies the dragonflies were not moving around much. In late afternoon the light was dimmed enough to trigger a nice **feeding swarm of dragonflies** moving at warp speed. One of the reddish "Saddlebags" dragonflies landed and it turned out to be the **very rare Carolina Saddlebags**, a immigrant into Wisconsin that has had an outstanding invasion of the state this year! We saw two butterfly immigrants, **Painted Lady** and **Common Buckeye**.



**Carolina Saddlebags.**  
Photo by Mark Johnson.



## Butterflies seen were:

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 2  
Clouded Sulphur 2  
Orange Sulphur 3  
**Acadian Hairstreak 3**  
'Summer' Spring Azure 3  
Great Spangled Fritillary 6  
Aphrodite Fritillary 1  
Silvery Checkerspot 1  
Baltimore Checkerspot 1

Northern Crescent 2  
Question Mark 1  
American Lady 1  
**Painted Lady 1**  
Red Admiral 4  
**Common Buckeye 1**  
Viceroy 2  
Little Wood-Satyr 4  
Common Wood-Nymph 3

Northern Pearly-eye 2  
Monarch 26  
Silver-spotted Skipper 2  
European Skipper 23  
Peck's Skipper 1  
Long Dash 1  
Northern Broken-Dash 1

## Highlights of Pretty Things with Wings: (Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies of Lakeshore Nature preserve)

Nineteen people joined in for this outing. In spite of overcast skies, this trip had many interesting encounters with nature! Many birds were seen including Red-eyed Vireo, Baltimore Oriole and Barn Swallow, all feeding young. Butterflies included Great Spangled Fritillary, Clouded Sulphur, Silver-spotted Skipper, Banded Hairstreak and Mourning Cloak. Dragonflies included Black Saddlebags, Red Saddlebags, Dot-tailed Whiteface, White-faced Meadowhawk and Halloween Pennant.

They also observed an American Pelecinid which is a black stingless wasp with exceptionally long abdomen.



Halloween Pennant.

## MORE FIELD TRIP HIGHLIGHTS IN NEXT ISSUE OF THE Badger ButterFlyer!!

### 3 **The 19th Annual Texas Butterfly Festival !** Registration is open

SATURDAY, NOV. 1 - TUESDAY, NOV. 4, 2014

#### Come to the Rio Grande Valley!

One of the most biologically diverse areas in North America sits along the border, between Texas and Mexico, where the Rio Grande winds its way toward the Laguna Madre. The Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV), in deep South Texas, is home to more than 1,200 different species of plants, 500 species of birds, 200 vertebrate species, roughly 300 species of butterflies, and over 90 species of dragonflies!

NABA's **National Butterfly Center** is honored to host the **19th Annual Texas Butterfly Festival**. From November 1 - 4, 2014, attendees will spend 3 days exploring renowned public lands and private properties with world-class trip leaders and expert guides. The Festival is taking place during prime butterfly season, when you may reasonably expect to see more than 60 species in a day.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, GO TO THE WEBSITE:**

<http://www.texasbutterflyfestival.com/>



Red-bordered  
Pixie

### 4 BUTTERFLIES REPORTED IN JULY AT WISCONSINBUTTERFLIES.ORG

So far in July there have been **278 reports** submitted to Mike Reese's butterfly website. There were 8 reports of **Gray Copper** but only a few were seen outside of Buena Vista in Portage Co. Most of the **Tawny Emperors** reported were from two NABA butterfly counts. Two scarce hairstreaks were seen much more often this year than in 2013. **Striped Hairstreak** reports have doubled over 2013.

And after no reports last year, there have been 13 reports of **Hickory Hairstreak!** (The Trempealeau NABA Count found 39!) Second brood **Juniper Hairstreaks** remain scarce with only 2 reports in July. There has been a good population of the usually rare **Little Glassywing** this year with a fourfold increase over last year! The Sandhill NABA Count in Wood Co. had 116 **Two-spotted Skippers**. Reports from elsewhere were only single individuals. Reports of **Wild Indigo Duskywing** during July this year and last were all from counties in the SW quarter of the state. (This Duskywing has switched from the scarce Wild Indigo plant to the invasive Crown Vetch -- in recent decades.)

**Common Ringlet** was down to only a third of the reports of 2013.

Immigrants cannot survive our winters but come into the state from the South. The strongest immigrants this year have been **Painted Lady** which in July had a sixfold increase in reports over 2013. **Giant Swallowtail** has had a fivefold increase over last year. **Red Admiral** reports have more than doubled over 2013. **Common Buckeye** has had 7 reports in July, but that is way down from 2013! **Little Yellow** has had 6 reports, it utilizes Partridge Pea.



Pipevine Swallowtail laying eggs.

The very rare immigrant **Pipevine Swallowtail** has had 3 reports this year (none in 2013). (Also there was an additional sighting of caterpillars on Dutchman's Pipe by Ginny Nelson that was not reported.) It seems that the Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars do not survive very well (Wisconsin birds that are permanent residents have not learned that the Pipevine caterpillars are poisonous because they are very rare here.) One of the sightings was in our yard in Sauk City. Amazingly the



Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillar.

female swallowtail stayed around the yard for at least 15 days! Toward the end she spent a long time checking the Dutchman's Pipe but apparently had no more eggs to lay, and no male to mate with, of course. We are raising several of her caterpillars.

Other immigrants that have turned up in single sightings are, **Checkered Skipper**, **American Snout**, and **Variegated Fritillary**. Hopefully we can expect more immigrants in August.

**KEEP SENDING YOUR REPORTS TO [www.wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org)**

**The Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every month (every other month in winter). The next issue will be in SEPTEMBER.**

**Officers of SWBA:**

President: Dr. Douglas Buege

[djbuege@gmail.com](mailto:djbuege@gmail.com)

Vice-President: Karl Legler

[karlndot@charter.net](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

Secretary: Dorothy Legler

Treasurer: Ginny Nelson

\*\*\*\*\*

**Other SWBA contributors:**

e-Newsletter Editor: Karl Legler

[karlndot@charter.net](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

Webmaster: Dan Sonnenberg

Butterfly Reporting:

Mike Reese at

[www.wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://www.wisconsinbutterflies.org)

Speaker's Bureau: Dorothy Legler

NABA Liaison: Joan Braune

**SWBA**

The Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association (SWBA) is a non-profit Wisconsin chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) which is the largest organization of people interested in butterflies. SWBA promotes public awareness, conservation and the enjoyment of butterflies through observation with close-focusing binoculars, chapter field trips, educational meetings, photography, butterfly gardening, monitoring and travel. SWBA's events are open to the public.

To become a member of SWBA simply join NABA. Membership benefits include 2 color quarterly magazines "American Butterflies" and "Butterfly Gardening". Please use the membership form on the SWBA Web site at <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/>

Our e-Newsletter, the Badger ButterFlyer, will be published monthly in spring to fall, and every other month in winter. Send any news notes to the editor, Karl Legler, at [karlndot@charter.net](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

**To stop receiving this e-Newsletter simply send an email to the above editor's address.**