

# Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

AUGUST, 2017

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

## 1 NEXT FIELD TRIP

Field Trips are free and open to the public.

Mark your calendar!

### Butterflies of Avoca / Blue River Area

Saturday, August 5

10:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

**NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE !**



Giant Swallowtail

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 **Dan Sonnenberg**. We expect to see late butterflies and several unusual southern immigrants. A hat and long pants are recommended. Bring water, a lunch, and binoculars (the closer they focus the better). A few extra binoculars are available. Meet at 10:30 a.m. Allow 50 minute travel time from Middleton.

**NEW DIRECTIONS:** (The usual parking lot is now closed!) Take Hwy 14 west to Lone Rock, south on Hwy 130, then turn right on Hwy 133. Go west about 8.1 miles to the intersection with hwy 80.

Continue west on 133 for 0.6 mile, taking the first right (north) turn. Call Dan at (608) 225-0451 only if you have a question about the trip.

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## 2 HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT FIELD TRIPS

### HIGHLIGHTS OF MADISON BUTTERFLY COUNT

On July 8, at the Grady Tract of the UW Arboretum, 7 counters found 14 butterfly species. They are marked in **RED** in the list below. Three other counters at other areas brought the total for the count up to 27 species. 204 individuals were found. Thanks to counters Edgar Spalding, Dave Fallow, Peter Fissel, Karl and Dorothy Legler, Kathy Miner, Ginny Nelson, Pam Skaar, Marsha Janote and Frank Piraino. **Bold** print indicates the best sightings.



Variegated Fritillary

Question Mark 1  
Eastern Tailed-Blue 4  
Summer Azure 6  
**Baltimore Checkerspot** 2  
Pearl Crescent 1  
**Aphrodite Fritillary** 2

**Great Spangled Fritillary** 17  
**Variegated Fritillary** 1  
**Banded Hairstreak** 1  
**Coral Hairstreak** 2  
American Lady 2  
**Painted Lady** 3

**Red Admiral** 13  
**Monarch** 21  
**Eyed Brown** 4  
**Common Wood-Nymph** 24  
Little Wood-Satyr 1  
**Dun Skipper** 5

Least Skipper 10  
 Mulberry Wing 2  
 Northern Broken-Dash 3

Silver-spotted Skipper 9  
 Clouded Sulphur 12  
 Orange Sulphur 1

Black Swallowtail 6  
 Cabbage White 41  
 Common Buckeye 10

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF SCHURCH THOMSON PRAIRIE FIELD TRIP

On July 15, 15 people toured this prairie and got to see many butterflies cavorting in the sunshine. Everyone got to see the magnificent and **Endangered Regal Fritillary**. Here are the **21 species** found:

Black Swallowtail 3  
 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1  
 Clouded Sulphur 6  
**Coral Hairstreak 3**  
 Banded Hairstreak 2  
 Eastern Tailed-Blue 4  
 'Summer' Spring Azure 1  
 Great Spangled Fritillary 2  
**Aphrodite Fritillary 3**  
**Regal Fritillary 15**  
 Meadow Fritillary 4



Regal Fritillary

Pearl Crescent 10+  
 American Lady 3  
 Red Admiral 2  
**Common Buckeye 2**  
 Viceroy 1  
 Little Wood-Satyr 1  
 Common Wood-Nymph 12  
 Monarch 8  
**Silver-spotted Skipper 1**  
 Northern Broken-Dash 1

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF KALSHEUR OAK SAVANNAH BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIP

On July 29 we had an **excellent turnout of 24 people** at Kalsheur. This was our first visit to this private property owned by the Prairie Enthusiasts. It was a spectacular sunny day with extensive nectar sources and we found 24 species of butterflies including **Giant Swallowtail**, **Painted Lady** and a rare and iconic immigrant from the South, the **Southern Dogface**! This was a "life butterfly" for most of the observers. (See photo below).



|                           |          |                             |          |                        |          |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Black Swallowtail         | 2        | Summer Azure                | 1        | Red-spotted Purple     | 2        |
| Eastern Tiger Swallowtail | 2        | <b>Aphrodite Fritillary</b> | <b>3</b> | Common Wood-Nymph      | 11       |
| <b>Giant Swallowtail</b>  | <b>2</b> | Great Spangled Fritillary   | 7        | Monarch                | 5        |
| Cabbage White             | 3        | Red Admiral                 | 2        | Silver-spotted Skipper | 3        |
| Clouded Sulphur           | 2        | <b>Common Buckeye</b>       | <b>3</b> | Black Dash             | 1        |
| Orange Sulphur            | 1        | Pearl Crescent              | 9        | Dun Skipper            | 1        |
| <b>Southern Dogface</b>   | <b>3</b> | Eastern Comma               | 1        | Northern Broken-Dash   | 1        |
| Eastern Tailed-Blue       | 2        | <b>Painted Lady</b>         | <b>2</b> | <b>Pecks Skipper</b>   | <b>1</b> |

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF DUBUQUE NABA COUNT

July 8 was the 15th year that Dorothy and I have counted butterflies and species in the Wisconsin portion of the Dubuque NABA Count. We found 23 species (which is about average) but only 80 individuals (which is the 3rd lowest in the 15 years!



Juniper Hairstreak

Numbers per hour were 22% below average. The best finds were Tawny Emperor, Little Yellow, a record number of Wild Indigo Duskywings (7) and of Common Buckeyes (3), **Juniper Hairstreak** and one rare stray from the South, **Southern Dogface**! That was a



Southern Dogface

new species for this count. The tip of the forewing is sharp, not rounded. (The upperside of the forewing has a "poodle face" pattern. Except in flight, the wings of Sulphurs are always closed, so often the poodle face can only be *faintly discerned*

*through the wing.* The poodle face is well seen in this photo only because the butterfly is illuminated from behind so that the pattern *shows clearly through* the forewing.) Here is the full list of what was seen:

Eastern Comma 2  
 Question Mark 1  
 Eastern Tailed-Blue 3  
 Summer Azure 3  
 Pearl Crescent 9  
 Hackberry Emperor 2  
**Tawny Emperor 2**  
 Great Spangled Fritillary 3  
 Monarch 2

**Juniper Hairstreak 1**  
 Red Admiral 2  
 Dun Skipper 1  
 Northern Broken-Dash 4  
**Wild Indigo Duskywing 7**  
 Silver-spotted Skipper 14  
 Clouded Sulphur 2

**Little Yellow 1**  
**Southern Dogface 1**  
 Black Swallowtail 1  
 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1  
 Mourning Cloak 1  
 Cabbage White 14  
**Common Buckeye 3**

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**HIGHLIGHTS OF TREMPEALEAU NABA COUNT**

On July 11, it was mostly sunny and up to 84°. We spent 8.5 hours observing butterflies in Trempealeau County for the 28th year. Three counters (Leglers and Al Sheldon) found 164 individuals of 34 species. This is about 11% higher in species per hour than the average for this count **but about 41% lower in individuals per hour than the average for this count.** There were fewer butterflies than usual.



American Lady



Mulberry Wing



Silver-spotted Skipper

**Photos by Al Sheldon.**

Eastern Comma 6  
 Eastern Tailed-Blue 1  
 Summer Azure 2  
**Baltimore Checkerspot 7**  
**Gorgone Checkerspot 2**  
**Bronze Copper 1**  
 American Copper 6  
 Northern Crescent 6  
 Hackberry Emperor 3  
 Great Spangled Fritillary 8  
 Coral Hairstreak 1  
 American Lady 3  
**Painted Lady 2**

Red Admiral 13  
**Appalachian Brown 1**  
 Eyed Brown 15  
 Common Wood-Nymph 2  
 Northern Pearly-Eye 2  
 Black Dash 5  
 Delaware Skipper 3  
**Dion Skipper 5**  
 Dun Skipper 1  
 European Skipper 5  
 Least Skipper 4  
**Mulberry Wing 9**  
 Northern Broken-Dash 14

Silver-spotted Skipper 11  
 Orange Sulphur 1  
 Clouded Sulphur 4  
 Black Swallowtail 1  
 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 1  
 Cabbage White 2  
**Common Buckeye 3**  
 Monarch 14

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**HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTHERN KETTLE MORAIN NABA COUNT**



Gray Comma

July 15 was a sunny day, perfect for the 21st annual butterfly count in that area. Five of us observed within the 15 mile diameter circle for 7 hours. We found 248 individuals of 35 species. We had a record number of Gray Commas (6). A fun day! After the count we all had well-deserved ice cream cones! Thanks to Peter Fissel and others that helped on this count. Here are the results:



Striped Hairstreak.

Eastern Comma 7  
**Gray Comma 6**  
 Question Mark 3  
 Eastern Tailed-Blue 22  
 Summer Azure 16  
**Gorgone Checkerspot 1**  
 Northern Crescent 3  
**Aphrodite Fritillary 2**  
 Great Spangled Fritillary 9  
 Banded Hairstreak 2  
 Coral Hairstreak 3  
**Striped Hairstreak 1**

American Lady 3  
**Painted Lady 2**  
 Red Admiral 7  
**Appalachian Brown 4**  
 Eyed Brown 4  
 Common Wood Nymph 16  
 Little Wood Satyr 1  
 Northern Pearly-Eye 4  
 Black Dash 5  
**Broad-winged Skipper 2**  
 Delaware Skipper 17  
 Dun Skipper 26

**Little Glassywing 2**  
 Long Dash 3  
**Mulberry Wing 1**  
 Northern Broken-Dash 8  
 Silver-spotted Skipper 3  
 Clouded Sulphur 28  
 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail 2  
 Mourning Cloak 3  
 Cabbage White 6  
 Monarch 25  
**Swamp Metalmark 1**

### 3 SWBA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Our long-time Treasurer, **Ginny Nelson**, will be retiring from this position later in this year so we are calling on our members for someone to volunteer to be Treasurer for SWBA. Ginny will help explain the duties of the Treasurer -- they are light. If you can help out, or need more information, contact the Nominating Committee Chairperson Tod Highsmith at (608) 242-1168 or at [todhighsmith@me.com](mailto:todhighsmith@me.com)

### 4 BUTTERFLY REPORTS FROM [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org)

In the last half of July and into August and beyond, butterflies originating to the south of Wisconsin build up their populations and finally reach further north, into Wisconsin, usually in small numbers. These are butterfly immigrants. They cannot survive Wisconsin winters but they can breed here in the summer (provided they can find the particular plants that the caterpillar depends on for food.) Sometimes small colonies of the species can temporarily develop here. Many of these immigrant

species are known to also fly back southward in fall. Examples of some immigrants that have come into Wisconsin in good numbers this year are **Red Admiral, Common Buckeye and Painted Lady**. (On the Mud Lake NABA Count Red Admiral was the commonest butterfly!) Other immigrants have slowly appeared in the state but this could pick up in the next few weeks or months. Here are the immigrants that came into Wisconsin during July:

**Red Admiral**

Many reports

**Common Buckeye**

Many reports

**Painted Lady**

Many reports

**Variegated Fritillary**

July 8 Madison Count 1  
 July 11 Monroe Co. 1  
 July 16 Monroe Co. 2

**Gray Hairstreak**

July 11 Monroe Co. 1  
 July 28 Milwaukee Co. 1

**Fiery Skipper**

July 15 - 28, Milwaukee Co. 1  
 July 25, Dane Co. 1  
 July 25 Vernon Co. 3  
 July 29 Milwaukee Co. 1, Ozaukee 1  
 July 30 Milwaukee Co. 2



American Snout

**American Snout**

July 5 Milwaukee Co. 1  
 July 15 Milwaukee Co. 1  
 July 27 Waukesha Co. 1  
 July 27-28 Milwaukee Co. 8

**Little Yellow**

July 2 Marquette Co. 1  
 July 9 Dubuque Count 1  
 July 13 Manitowoc 1

**Sleepy Orange**

July 16 Iowa Co. 1

**Southern Dogface**

July 9 Dubuque Count 1  
 July 27 Dane Co. 1  
 July 29 SWBA Field Trip 2

**Checkered White**

July 5 Dunn Co. 1  
 July 17 Waukesha Co. 2

**[Keep sending your reports to wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org)**

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## 5 2017 TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, NOV. 4 - TUESDAY, NOV. 7, 2017



This is the premier butterfly event in the country. It is run by **NABA's National Butterfly Center** in Mission, Texas. The million-dollar building was opened in 2010. NABA's purpose in acquiring the 100 acre property adjacent to the Rio Grande River and Bentsen State Park was to preserve a superlative site for butterflying. It



Long-tailed Skipper

is located in the southern-most tip of Texas, in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV - an area about 120 miles long by 20 miles wide) which is the most productive butterfly-finding area in the United States. The climate with mild winters results in a rich diversity of plants and animals with a southern affinity, many of which do not occur farther north. The LRGV 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!

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.

Proceeds from the Butterfly Festival go to NABA's National Butterfly Center.

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

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/TexasButterflyFestival>



Red-bordered  
Pixie

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## 6 TRIP TO MEXICO FOR MONARCHS!

February 1 - 6, 2018

5 night/6 day guided tour

NABA's National Butterfly Center has announced its first trip to see the Monarchs at their Mexican wintering preserve.

**The Tour includes:**

- Airfare from Houston IAH
- Meals
- Airport transfers
- Hotel accommodations
- Entrance fees and
- All activities listed in the **detailed itinerary** for \$2895 per person (double room occupancy). This epic excursion to the overwintering grounds of the Monarch is the trip of a lifetime, and your field guide will be none other than expert birder and butterflyer **Linda Cooper**. Get more information at



<https://www.nationalbutterflycenter.org/anganguero>

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## 7 WALL-builders Descend on NATIONAL BUTTERFLY CENTER!

Part of the 100 acre NBC property borders the Rio Grande River. About a week ago workers with heavy equipment and chain saws descended on the NBC and began cutting down trees as part of preparations by Homeland Security to build a wall through part of the property. (This also threatens the Santa Anna National Wildlife Refuge and Bentsen State Park.) The forces made no prior announcement of their intentions. Since the issue involves damaging private property the NBC is trying to resist the destruction through legal action. Members of NABA / SWBA can keep up on this issue by receiving NABA-CHAT email list-serve. **To donate to the legal fund** go to the

National Butterfly Center's **DONATE** page, with a **RED** field for the Legal Defense Fund:  
<https://www.nationalbutterflycenter.org/support-nbc/donate-now>

The NBC says, "We have spent this week working with lawyers and hope to have suit filed by the end of the month.

THANK YOU ALL!"

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The ButterFlyer flits to you every month in summer. The next issue will be in September.

**Officers of SWBA:**

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**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. Send any news notes to the editor, Karl Legler, at [karlndot@charter.net](mailto:karlndot@charter.net)

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