

A CHECKLIST AND GUIDE TO THE BUTTERFLIES OF THE EAST BRUNSWICK BUTTERFLY PARK

EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

2007

The Butterfly Park is the recipient of:

2002 Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions Environmental Achievement Award

Joint Commendation of the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly

**2004 NJ Association of Landscape Architects Environmental
Enhancement Award**

2004 USEPA Region 2 Environmental Quality Award

About the Butterfly Park

The East Brunswick Butterfly Park is the first municipal park in New Jersey, and perhaps the country, dedicated to the conservation and enjoyment of butterflies. The park consists of an 11-acre preserve adjacent to Great Oak Park and features a 1,000-foot long cinder trail lined by numerous plantings to attract butterflies, a 400-foot long meadow trail, 1,000 feet of woodland trails, an early successional field that is being managed to control invasive shrubs and to promote wildflowers and grasses and second-growth upland woods being managed for invasive species. All trails feature benches and signs. The park is also located along the township bike way and a bike rack is provided at the entrance near Great Oak Park. The park provides habitat for a wide diversity of wildlife species, including butterflies, and offers abundant opportunities for nature study and enjoyment.

The park is an ongoing project of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission and has been constructed primarily through volunteer efforts and donations. Field guides and butterfly nets are available for public use at the entrance to the park, near the kiosk. Abundant opportunities exist for individuals and groups to assist with the park.

How to Identify Butterflies

Most butterflies are easy to identify. There are many excellent field guides to help with their identification. These field guides feature wonderful color photographs. Most species can be easily identified with close-focusing binoculars and comparison to the photographs in the field guides. The most useful binoculars for butterfly watching have a minimum focal distance of less than six feet and a magnification of seven power (7X) or greater. Many species can be closely approached and studied by moving slowly toward them. Relatively few species need to be captured for accurate identification. A butterfly net is used to capture those species that need closer inspection; after netting, the butterfly can be carefully transferred to a jar for further study, and then

released without harm. In rare instances, a butterfly may need to be killed and saved for more detailed scientific study.

Butterfly collecting is permitted in the park for the enjoyment and study of butterflies. Please use caution not to damage the plantings.

Recommended Reading

Glassberg, J. 1993. Butterflies through binoculars: A field guide to butterflies in the Boston-New York-Washington Region. Oxford University Press.

Glassberg, J. 1999. Butterflies through binoculars: The East. Oxford University Press.

Gochfeld, M. and J. Burger. Butterflies of New Jersey: A guide to their status, distribution, conservation and appreciation. Rutgers University Press.

North American Butterfly Association (NABA). www.naba.org

Opler, P.A. 1998. A field guide to eastern butterflies. Houghton Mifflin Co.

Pyle, M.R. 1981. The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies. Alfred A. Knopf Publishers.

Sutton, P.T. and C. Sutton. 1999. How to spot butterflies. Houghton Mifflin Co.

Walton, R.K. 1999. Common Butterflies of the Northeast. Video.

Wright, A.B. 1993. Peterson first field guide to caterpillars of North America. Houghton Mifflin Co.

**For more information contact the
East Brunswick Environmental Commission through:
<http://www.eastbrunswick.org>**

Park Grounds Open Daily: Dawn to Dusk

Parking is available at the entrance to
Great Oak Park off of Rues Lane

** Learn about ticks, poison ivy and bee stings and protect yourself accordingly.*

THE BUTTERFLIES OF THE EAST BRUNSWICK BUTTERFLY PARK

This checklist of the butterflies of the park is based on observations during 2002 and 2003 and 2004. The park has excellent and diverse butterfly habitats and the list is expected to grow significantly with more fieldwork. Reports of new sightings are encouraged especially when accompanied by field notes (location, weather, time, date, habitat) or photographs.

Many butterflies are very sensitive to environmental degradation and can be useful indicators of the quality and health of an ecosystem. By understanding their diversity and distribution within the park, and whether their populations are stable or changing, management strategies can be devised to protect and foster this important natural resource.

When and Where to Look for Butterflies

Butterflies are strictly diurnal, meaning they only fly during the day. Sunny, warm and calm days are preferred. Certain butterflies may fly from early spring to late fall, but most have shorter and specific flight periods. Butterfly behavior also varies between species and different species may fly at different times of the day. Butterflies are most easily found in open areas that feature many flowering plants and grasses. Fields are generally the best for finding a wide-diversity of species. The larger and more natural that the area is, the better. The area where different habitats come in contact, commonly referred to as the edge, also usually has high butterfly diversity. The East Brunswick Butterfly Park features these characteristics and is expected to support a healthy and diverse butterfly fauna. At the Park, look for butterflies on the plantings along the cinder trail and in the fields and woods.

*NOTE: The checklist on this page is keyed to the very excellent *Butterflies of North America* by Jim P. Brock and Kenn Kaufman. Please refer to the page numbers directly to the right of each butterfly name to assist with identification. Of course, this checklist can be used anywhere in our region.

Butterflies Seen in the Park

Date : _____ / _____ / 2007

Time : _____

Conditions : _____

- Eastern tiger swallowtail - 20
- Spicebush swallowtail - 26
- Black swallowtail - 28
- Cabbage white - 46
- Clouded sulphur - 60
- Red-banded hairstreak - 92
- Gray hairstreak - 92
- Coral hairstreak - 98
- Orange sulphur - 102
- Eastern tailed blue - 124
- Spring azure - 130
- Summer azure - 130
- Great-spangled fritillary - 158
- Pearl crescent - 176
- Question mark - 196
- Eastern comma - 196
- Mourning cloak - 202
- Red admiral - 202
- Painted lady - 204
- American lady - 204
- Common buckeye - 206
- Red-spotted purple - 210

- Viceroy - 210
- Hackberry Emperor - 222
- Monarch - 226
- Little wood satyr - 230
- Common wood nymph - 236
- Silver-spotted skipper - 256
- Juvenal's cloudywing - 280
- Wild Indigo duskywing - 286
- Common checkered skipper - 288
- Common sootywing - 298
- Fiery skipper - 302
- Peck's skipper - 322
- Tawny-edged skipper - 324
- Hobomok skipper - 330
- Zabulon skipper - 330

Notes : _____

Updated: 7/19/2007

**Questions, comments, additions,
corrections, or wish to be included on our
e-mail list?**

Please contact us through:

www.njnaturenotes.com