

Hilltop Butterfly Checklist



Butterfly species found in or near the Hilltop Reservation, or elsewhere in northern New Jersey, are listed here along with their relative in-season abundance and main caterpillar host plants. Some rare occurrences have been left off, and, as butterfly populations vary from year to year, some species may increase in the future, or disappear as habitats change. Lastly, as Hilltop sightings were not systematically compiled in the past, this checklist is a work in progress – we have incorporated older ecological studies, as well as more recent informal reports.

Additional information can be found on the North American Butterfly Association's (NABA) website for our New Jersey chapter: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabanj/>, including a great application for logging your sightings and photos. Anything you can add from your own visits to the Hilltop Reservation would be greatly appreciated! – Theresa Trapp, Treasurer

Frequency Observed – A, C, U, R (Abundant, Common, Uncommon, Rare)
Caterpillar Host Plants – plant species that butterfly larvae require for food

Family	Common Name	Freq	Caterpillar Host Plants
Papilionidae – Swallowtails			
	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	C	Black Cherry, Tuliptree, magnolias
	Black Swallowtail	C	Carrot / Rue Families (Fennel, Parsley, Rue)
	Spicebush Swallowtail	C	Spicebush, Sassafras
Pieridae – Whites & Sulphurs			
	Cabbage White	A	Mustard Family (e.g., Brassicas)
	Falcate Orangetip	U	cresses (<i>Arabis</i>)
	Clouded Sulphur	C	Pea Family (e.g., clovers)
	Orange Sulphur	C	Pea Family (e.g., clovers)
Lycaenidae – Gossamer-wings			
	Harvester	R	aphids (larvae are carnivorous!)
	American Copper	C	Sheep Sorrel, Curly Dock
	Banded Hairstreak	C	oaks, walnuts, hickories
	Striped Hairstreak	U	Black Cherry, blueberries
	Juniper Hairstreak	U	Eastern Red Cedar
	Gray Hairstreak	U	Pea / Mallow Families, others
	Red-banded Hairstreak	R	sumacs
	Eastern Tailed-Blue	C	Pea Family (e.g., clovers)
	Spring Azure	C	Flowering Dogwood
	'Summer' Azure	C	shrub dogwoods

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Family	Common Name	Freq	Caterpillar Host Plants
Nymphalidae – Brushfoots			
	Monarch	C	milkweeds
	Great Spangled Fritillary	C	violets
	Pearl Crescent	C	asters
	Question Mark	C	Hackberry, Stinging Nettle, elms
	Eastern Comma	C	Common Hops, Stinging Nettle, elms
	Compton Tortoiseshell	R	willows, birches, poplars
	Mourning Cloak	C	willows, birches, poplars, elms
	American Lady	C	pussytoes, everlastings
	Painted Lady	C	thistles, many others
	Red Admiral	C	Stinging Nettle, False Nettle
	Common Buckeye	C	false foxgloves, plantains
	Red-spotted Purple / Admiral	U	Black Cherry, willows, birches, poplars
	Appalachian Brown	U	sedges
	Viceroy	C	willows, poplars
	Hackberry Emperor	U	Hackberry
	Northern Pearly-eye	U	woodland grasses (Bottlebrush, etc.)
	Little Wood-Satyr	C	Orchard Grass, bluegrasses
	Common Ringlet	U	bluegrasses, other grasses
	Common Wood-Nymph	C	grasses (Purpletop, etc.)
Hesperiidae – Skippers			
	Silver-spotted Skipper	C	Black Locust, other legumes
	Northern Cloudywing	U	Pea Family (e.g., clovers)
	Juvenal's Duskywing	C	oaks
	Horace's Duskywing	U	oaks
	Wild Indigo Duskywing	C	Crownvetch, other legumes
	Least Skipper	C	grasses
	European Skipper	A	Timothy, other grasses
	Peck's Skipper	C	grasses
	Tawny-edged Skipper	C	panic grasses, bluegrasses
	Crossline Skipper	U	Purpletop, other grasses
	Northern Broken-Dash	C	panic grasses (Deertongue, etc.)
	Little Glassywing	A	Purpletop Grass
	Delaware Skipper	C	grasses
	Hobomok Skipper	C	panic grasses
	Zabulon Skipper	C	grasses (Purpletop, etc.)
	Broad-winged Skipper	U	Common Reed, Wild Rice
	Dun Skipper	C	sedges