

Butterflies delight us with their grace and beauty, while playing an essential role in pollinating a broad range of plants. Of the 90-some butterfly species found in Northern Virginia, nearly half have been reported at Dyke Marsh. They can be seen in the spring through fall, on many warm, sunny days. You may see them in a variety of habitats but most prominently where plants like grasses, trees and wildflowers are in bloom.

Butterflies may take nectar from several sources but are more selective in choosing plants on which to lay eggs. Butterflies have evolved over time with particular plant species important to their survival. They depend on certain host plants to provide appropriate shelter for eggs and food for subsequent larvae and caterpillar growth. With this checklist, a field guide and possibly binoculars, a few walks along the trails and boardwalks of Dyke Marsh can start to familiarize you with the most common butterflies. The listed host plants reflect the food and larval preferences of the butterfly species.

Friends of Dyke Marsh, the National Park Service, Earth Sangha and other partners are restoring an upland section of Dyke Marsh to better control invasive, non-native plants like English ivy and porcelain berry. They have planted native shrubs, flowers and forbs to support wildlife, including pollinators such as native butterflies and bees. Contact the Friends of Dyke Marsh if you would like to help. Visit [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org) and [www.nps.gov/gwmp](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp).

Prepared by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, Naturalist Survey Group, and the National Park Service.

This survey started in 2016.

For more information, email the Friends of Dyke Marsh:  
[info@fodm.org](mailto:info@fodm.org)

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Mclean, VA 22101  
[www.nps.gov/gwmp](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp)



## Checklist of the Butterflies of Dyke Marsh



Eastern Tiger  
Swallowtail Butterfly



**BUTTERFLIES****LARVAL HOST PLANTS****Swallowtails (Papilionoides)**

Black Swallowtail ( <i>Papilio polyxenes</i> ).....	Queen Anne's Lace, Carrot Family
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail ( <i>Papilio glaucus</i> ).	Black Cherry Tree, Tulip- Yellow Poplar Tree
Spicebush Swallowtail ( <i>Papilio Troilus</i> ).....	Spicebush and Sassafras
Pipevine Swallowtail ( <i>Battus philenor</i> ).....	Pipevine
Zebra Swallowtail ( <i>Eurytides marcellus</i> ).....	Pawpaw

**Whites and Sulphurs (Pieridae)**

Cabbage White ( <i>Pieris rapae</i> ).....	Mustard Species, Cabbage
Falcate Orangetip ( <i>Anthocharis midea</i> ).....	Wild Mustard Species, Rockcress
Clouded Sulphur ( <i>Colias philodice</i> ).....	Clovers, Alfalfa
Orange Sulphur ( <i>Colias eurytheme</i> ).....	Pea, Alfalfa, Clovers, Vetches
Cloudless Sulphur ( <i>Phoebis sennae</i> ).....	Partridge Pea, Wild Senna
Sleepy Orange ( <i>Eurema nicippe</i> ).....	Partridge Pea, Wild Senna

**Gossamer Wings (Lycaenidae)**

Gray Hairstreak ( <i>Strymon melinus</i> ).....	Clover, Lespedeza, Mallows, Vetches
Red-banded Hairstreak ( <i>Calycopsis cecrops</i> ).....	Sumac Species
Eastern Tailed Blue ( <i>Everes comyntas</i> ).....	Vetches, Clovers, Bush Clovers
Spring/Summer Azure ( <i>Celastrina laden</i> ) ( <i>complex</i> ).....	Dogwood, Sumac, Wingstem, Viburnum

**Brush-footed (Nymphalidae)**

Variiegated Fritillary ( <i>Euptoieta Claudia</i> ).....	Passionflowers, Violets
Silvery Checkerspot ( <i>Chlosyne nycteis</i> ).....	Sunflowers, Wingstem, Other Composites
Pearl Crescent ( <i>Phyciodes tharos</i> ).....	Asters
Question Mark ( <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i> ).	Elms, Hackberry, Nettles
Eastern Comma ( <i>Polygonia comma</i> ).....	Willows, Hackberry Tree, Elms
Mourning Cloak ( <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i> ).....	Birch, Elms, Hackberry, Willows
American Lady ( <i>Venessa virginiensis</i> ).....	Cudweed, Pussytoes, Sweet Everlasting
Painted Lady ( <i>Venessa cardui</i> ).....	Sunflowers, Thistles, Other Composites

**NAME****LARVAL HOST PLANTS****Brush-footed (cont.)**

Red Admiral ( <i>Venessa atalanta</i> ).....	Nettle Species
Common Buckeye ( <i>Junonia coenia</i> ).....	Plantains, Figwort, Vervains
Red-Spotted Purple ( <i>Limenitis arthemis</i> )....	Serviceberry, Willows, Black Cherry
Viceroy ( <i>Limenitis archippus</i> ).....	Serviceberry, Willows, Black Cherry Tree
Hackberry Emperor ( <i>Asterocampa celtis</i> )...	Hackberry
Appalachian Brown ( <i>Satyrodes Appalachia</i> ).....	Tussock sedge, Sedge Species
Carolina Satyr ( <i>Hermeuptychia sosybus</i> )....	Grass Species
Common Wood Nymph ( <i>Cercyonis pegala</i> ).....	Purpletop, Kentucky Bluegrass
Monarch ( <i>Danaus plexippus</i> ).....	Milkweed Species

**Skippers (Hesperiidae)**

Silver-spotted Skipper ( <i>Epargyreus clarus</i> ).	Black Locust, Hog Peanut, Kudzu
Juvenal's Duskywing ( <i>Erynnis juvenalis</i> )....	White Oak and Other Oak Species
Horace's Duskywing ( <i>Erynnis Horatius</i> )....	White Oak and Other Oak Species
Wild Indigo Duskywing ( <i>Erynnis baptisiae</i> ).....	Crown Vetch, Yellow Wild Indigo
Common Checkered Skipper ( <i>Pyrgus communis</i> ).....	Mallow, Velvetleaf
Sachem ( <i>Atalopedes campestris</i> ).....	Bermuda and Crab Grass, Grass Species
Zabulon Skipper ( <i>Poanes zabulon</i> ).....	Purpletop, Purple Lovegrass, Other Grasses
Broad-winged Skipper ( <i>Poanus viator</i> ).....	Phragmites, Wild Rice
Dion Skipper ( <i>Euphyes dion</i> ).....	Tussock Sedge, Woodgrass
Dun Skipper ( <i>Euphyes vestris</i> ).....	Sedges
Ocoloa Skipper ( <i>Panoquina ocolo</i> ).....	Rice Cutgrass
Clouded Skipper ( <i>Larema accius</i> ).....	Barnyard Grass, Other Grass Species
Least Skipper ( <i>Ancyloxypha numitor</i> ).....	Bluegrass, Rice Cutgrass
Fiery Skipper ( <i>Hylephila phyleus</i> ).....	Bermuda Grass, Other Grass Species
Peck's Skipper ( <i>Polites peckius</i> ).....	Kentucky Bluegrass, Rice Cutgrass
Tawny-edged Skipper ( <i>Polites Themistocles</i> )	Purple Coneflower, Chicory, Panic Grass
Little Glassywing ( <i>Pompeuis verna</i> ).....	Purpletop, Other Grasses