

A Checklist of **BUTTERFLIES** in Oakland County

This checklist was created through Oakland County Parks & Recreation's participation in the North American Butterfly Association Counts. A group of dedicated volunteer butterfly enthusiasts have discovered all of the species listed, at Oakland County Parks.

Is it a Butterfly?

Butterflies belong to an order of insects known as **Lepidoptera** which means scaled wings. Moths and skippers are also in this order. Generally, moths are active at night while butterflies fly during the day.

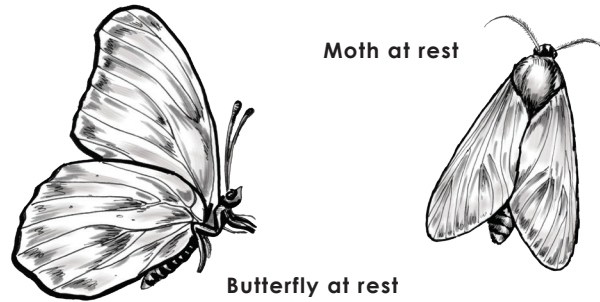
Moths are not as colorful as butterflies. Butterfly antennae look like miniature golf clubs with a long shaft ending in a club. Moth antennae are feathered or small. Seen at rest, they position their wings differently.

Skippers are small to medium sized butterflies. They are duller in color and dart in flight. Their larger bodies have powerful wing muscles along with wider heads and larger eyes. Unlike other butterflies, they have hook-like projections at the end of their clubbed antennae.



Skipper at rest

According to *Butterflies and Moths of North America*, 106 of the 166 butterflies found in Michigan can be seen in Oakland County. If you find a species not listed, please add it and let us know. Try butterfly watching at the Oakland County Parks.



Butterfly at rest

Moth at rest

Other ID Clues

Wing patterns and color help to identify butterflies, but there are other clues, such as:

1. **Size**—swallowtails are big and blues are small.
2. **Shape**—look closely for tails on the hindwings or scallops on the outer wing margins.
3. **Posture**—look at the way the insect sits. Butterflies fold their wings tightly over their backs. Moths spread their wings flat.
4. **Flight style**—some butterflies flit and dart while others float.
5. **Fine details**—Viceroy's look like Monarchs, but have a black band across their hindwings.

Butterfly Conservation

Butterflies are disappearing due to habitat loss, pollution and indiscriminate use of insecticides.

Learn more about butterflies through organizations like the North American Butterfly Association, The Xerces Society and Monarch Watch.

Invite a butterfly to lunch in your yard by planting native plants.

Have to have a habitat

The 13 Oakland County Parks are important ecological sites in Oakland County. More than 6,700 acres of forests, meadows and wetlands provide essential habitat to wildlife. Butterflies require pesticide-free fields of flowers for nectar, but they also need different plants to serve as food for caterpillars.

Have to have a host

A butterfly's life cycle begins with a unique association between the butterflies and the plants (hosts) they need for their larvae to develop. This process is known as **metamorphosis**—the amazing transformation from egg to an adult.

ADDISON OAKS

W. Romeo Road, Leonard

CATALPA OAKS

Greenfield Road, Southfield

GLEN OAKS

13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

GROVELAND OAKS

Dixie Highway, Holly

HIGHLAND OAKS

N. Milford Road, Highland

INDEPENDENCE OAKS

Sashabaw Road, Clarkston

LYON OAKS

Pontiac Trail, Wixom

ORION OAKS

Clarkston Road,
Lake Orion

RED OAKS

13 Mile Road, Madison Heights

ROSE OAKS

Fish Lake Road, Holly

SPRINGFIELD OAKS

Andersonville Road, Davisburg

WATERFORD OAKS

Scott Lake Road, Waterford

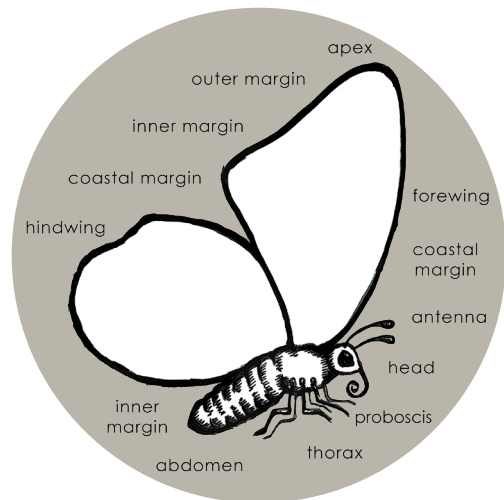
WHITE LAKE OAKS

Williams Lake Road, White Lake

OBSERVER(S)	
Date	Total Species
Location	
Weather	
Notes	

Common Name	Scientific Name	
Swallowtails		
Black Swallowtail	Papilio polyxenes	
Giant Swallowtail	Papilio cresphontes	
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	Papilio glaucus	
Spicebush Swallowtail	Papilio troilus	
Whites & Sulphurs		
Mustard White	Pieris napi	
Cabbage White	Pieris rapae	
Clouded Sulphur	Colias philodice	
Orange Sulphur	Colias eurytheme	
Cloudless Sulphur	Phoebis sennae	
Gossamer-Wings		
American Copper	Lycaena phlaeas	
Bronze Copper	Lycaena hyllus	
Coral Hairstreak	Satyrium titus	
Acadian Hairstreak	Satyrium acadica	
Edwards' Hairstreak	Satyrium edwardsii	
Banded Hairstreak	Satyrium calanus	
Hickory Hairstreak	Satyrium caryaevorum	
Striped Hairstreak	Satyrium liparops	
Blues		
Eastern Tailed-Blue	Everes comyntas	
Spring Azure	Celastrina ladon	
Summer' Spring Azure	Celastrina ladon neglecta	
Silvery Blue	Glaucopsyche lygdamus	

Brushfooted Butterflies		
Great Spangled Fritillary	Speyeria cybele	
Silver-bordered Fritillary	Boloria selene	
Harris' Checkerspot	Chlosyne harrisii	
Pearl Crescent	Phyciodes tharos	
Baltimore Checkerspot	Euphydryas phaeton	
Question Mark	Polygonia interrogationis	
Eastern Comma	Polygonia comma	
Gray Comma	Polygonia progne	
Mourning Cloak	Nymphalis antiopa	
American Lady	Vanessa virginienis	
Painted Lady	Veanness cardui	
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta	
Common Buckeye	Junonia coenia	
Red-spotted Purple	Limenitis arthemis astyanax	
Viceroy	Limenitis archippus	
Tawny Emperor	Asterocampa clyton	
Northern Pearly-eye	Enodia anthedon	
Eyed Brown	Satyrodes eurydice	
Appalachian Brown	Satyrodes appalachia	
Little Wood-Satyr	Megisto cymela	
Common Ringlet	Coenonympha tullia	
Common Wood-Nymph	Cercyonis pegala	
Monarch	Danaus plexippus	



Skippers		
Silver-spotted Skipper	Epargyreus clarus	
Southern Cloudy Wing	Thorybes bathyllus	
Northern Cloudywing	Thorybes pylades	
Sleepy Duskywings	Erynnis brizo	
Juvenal's Duskywing	Erynnis juvenalis	
Wild Indigo Duskywing	Ernnis baptisiae	SC
Common Checkered-Skipper	Pyrgus communis	
Common Sootywing	Pholisora catullus	
Least Skipper	Ancyloxypha numitor	
European Skipper	Thymelicus lineola	
Fiery Skipper	Hylephila phyleus	
Peck's Skipper	Polites peckius	
Tawny-edged Skipper	Polites themistocles	
Crossline Skipper	Polites origenes	
Long Dash	Polites mystic	
Northern Broken-Dash	Wallengrenia egeremet	
Little Glassywing	Pompeius verna	
Delaware Skipper	Atrytone logan	
Mulberry Wing	Poanes massasoit	
Hobomok Skipper	Poanes hobomok	
Zabulon Skipper	Poanes zabulon	
Broad-winged Skipper	Poanes viator	
Dion Skipper	Euphyes dion	
Black Dash	Euphyes conspicua	
Dun Skipper	Euphyes vestris	
Common Roadside-Skipper	Amblyscirtes vialis	

State Status Rank Key: E = Endangered
T = Threatened SC = Special Concern

Butterfly Anatomy

Adult butterflies have three body sections, six legs and antennae. Butterflies have four wings —two forewings and two hindwings. The upper and under sides of the wings may display different color patterns. Learning the anatomy of the butterflies will help with identification.