

## Butterfly Habitat & Conservation

Butterflies—our flying flowers. They're beautiful to look at with all of their varied patterns, colors and sizes. We often enjoy them as they flutter through our gardens, seeking nectar or a place to bask in the sun. In addition to being beautiful, however, they are important threads in the web of life because they serve as food to so many other animals (birds, mammals, amphibians, spiders and other insects) and they are important indicators of environmental health because they are sensitive to change in the environment and require a wide variety of plants to survive.

As adults, butterflies feed on the nectar of wildflowers such as goldenrod, joe pye weed, ironweed, milkweed, asters and coneflowers. As caterpillars, they feed on host plants that are specific to their species. Depending on the butterfly, host plants may be a specific type of grass, tree leaf, or native wildflower. Both nectar and host plants grow naturally in grassy fields, wetlands and forests yet today these habitats are being converted into lawns, roadways or other developments.

We can help butterflies by growing native wildflowers, leaving areas of our lawns unmowed, leaving leaf litter and brush piles, planting trees and shrubs that serve as host plants, and avoiding the use of pesticides.

### ***Join Us For The Butterfly Count!***

*At least 85 types of butterflies can be found in Loudoun County. Join us for our annual Butterfly Count, held on the first Saturday in August.*

*We also invite you to join us on field trips where we identify butterflies, and learn how we can help preserve the habitats where they thrive.*

*For more information, visit our website:  
[www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org).*

# Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

## *People and Wildlife Thrive Together*

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy inspires, motivates and engages people to protect, preserve and restore wildlife habitat in Loudoun County, Virginia. We offer educational programs and field trips, citizen-science opportunities, habitat restoration projects, and conservation advocacy.

Membership with benefits available  
for a donation of \$25 or more.

[www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org)

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# Butterflies of Loudoun County

Checklist



## Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

[www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org)

# Checklist of Butterflies of Loudoun County

## Notes:

	Status	Spring			Summer			Fall			Status	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N		
		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N												
___ Pipevine Swallowtail	U	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		___ Painted Lady	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		___	
___ Spicebush Swallowtail	A	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Red Admiral	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Black Swallowtail	U	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Common Buckeye	C				•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Eastern Swallowtail	C	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Red-spotted Purple	U	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Zebra Swallowtail	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___ White Admiral	R	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Giant Swallowtail	R		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Viceroy	U	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Checkered White	L									•	___ Tawny Emperor	U			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Cabbage White	A	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Hackberry Emperor	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Falcate Orangetip	L	•	•	•							___ Northern Pearly Eye	C			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Clouded Sulphur	A	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Appalachian Brown	R			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Orange Sulphur	A	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Little Wood Satyr	U	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Cloudless Sulphur	R				•	•		•	•	•	___ Common Wood Nymph	C			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Little Yellow	L				•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Monarch	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Sleepy Orange	R	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Silver-spotted Skipper	A	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Harvester	L		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Long-tailed Skipper	R				•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ American Copper	R	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Southern Cloudywing	U				•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Coral Hairstreak	R		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Northern Cloudywing	U		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Banded Hairstreak	C				•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Hayhurst's Scalopwing	U		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Striped Hairstreak	L				•						___ Dreamy Duskywing	R	•	•								___
___ Henry's Elfin	R	•									___ Sleepy Duskywing	L	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Eastern Pine Elfin	R	•	•								___ Horace's Duskywing	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Juniper Hairstreak	U		•		•	•					___ Juvenal's Duskywing	C	•	•								___
___ White M. Hairstreak	R	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Mottled Duskywing	L	•	•						•	•	___
___ Gray Hairstreak	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Wild Indigo Duskywing	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Red-banded Hairstreak	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Common Checkered Skipper	U	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Eastern-tailed Blue	A	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Common Sootywing	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Spring Azure	A	•									___ Swarthy Skipper	U			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Summer Azure	A	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Clouded Skipper	L			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Appalachian Azure	L	•	•								___ Least Skipper	A	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Silvery Blue	L	•	•								___ European Skipper	R			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ American Snout	U				•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Firey Skipper	U				•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Variegated Fritillary	C		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Tawny-edged Skipper	U				•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Great Spangled Fritillary	C		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Peck's Skipper	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Aphrodite Fritillary	R				•	•					___ Crossline Skipper	U				•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Regal Fritillary	L				•	•					___ Little Glassywing	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Meadow Fritillary	U	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Northern Broken Dash	R			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Silvery Checkerspot	C				•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Southern Broken Dash	L	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Pearl Crescent	A	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Delaware Skipper	L				•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Question Mark	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Hobomok Skipper	L	•	•								___
___ Eastern Comma	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Zabulon Skipper	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ Mourning Cloak	U	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Dun Skipper	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
___ American Lady	C	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	___ Sachem	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	___
											___ Ocola Skipper	L				•	•	•	•	•	•	___

### Key

- A – abundant; species observable in great numbers
- C – common; species which should be seen in proper habitat
- U – uncommon; species present in limited numbers and not certain to be seen
- R – rare; species seen only at intervals of several years
- L – limited, recorded by USGS as being present in Loudoun

*Note: The Baltimore Checkerspot is believed to have been extirpated in Loudoun and was removed from the list. The Eastern Comma, Question Mark, Mourning Cloak, Clouded Sulphur and Variegated Fritillary may be seen in winter months.*