

Badger ButterFlyer

The e-newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association)

AUGUST, 2022

WEB SITE: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba>

Field Trips are free and open to the public. (Mark your calendar!)

1 NEXT FIELD TRIP

BUTTERFLIES OF THE LOWER WISCONSIN RIVERWAY (AVOCA UNIT AND BLUE RIVER UNIT)

Saturday, August 6, 2022

10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

In good years this can be the best butterfly trip of the year! This trip will highlight several areas in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, including Avoca Prairie and Savanna State Natural Area in Iowa County, and Blue River unit in Grant County. **Leader is butterfly expert, Mike Reese.** We expect to see late butterflies and several unusual southern immigrants. A hat and long pants are recommended. Bring water, a lunch, and binoculars (the closer they focus the better). A few extra binoculars are available. (Call Karl Legler at (608) 228-0743 only if you have a question about the trip, or if the weather is questionable.)

Meet at 10:30 a.m. Allow 50-minute travel time from Middleton.

DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy 14 west to Lone Rock, south on Hwy 130 then turn right onto Hwy 133. Go west about 5.0 miles, turn right on Hay Road, and drive north to the first parking area.

IN THIS ISSUE

1. NEXT FIELD TRIP:

- Lower Wis. Riverway (Avoca, Blue River)

2. BUTTERFLY OF THE YEAR:

Marine Blue



Common Buckeye



Giant Swallowtail

2 BUTTERFLY OF THE YEAR 2022: MARINE BLUE

The **Marine Blue** is a very rare stray to Wisconsin from its normal range along the southwest edge of the United States and south to Central America. The Marine Blue was first reported from Wisconsin in 1978 in Grant Co. There have been few Wisconsin records of this migrant. In the 22 years from 2000 to 2021 there have been only 6 records in Wisconsin. And there have been no records in Wisconsin in the last 10 years. (Dorothy and I have found one Marine Blue in Wisconsin in 35 years of butterflying!)



Marine Blue
Photo by Dave Hanson

It is too rare to include on SWBA's Field Checklist .

But this year it has arrived in Wisconsin in unprecedented numbers: there were 7 reports in June beginning on June 16 --- which was 2 days after high temperature and strong southerly winds facilitated northward migration.

The photo shows the characteristic appearance on the under-side of the wings with brown and white striping and 2 prominent eye-spots. The male has wings with upper-sides bluish-brown with very faint stripes. The female has wings with upper-sides brown with mottled blue at the base of the wings. The habitat is open areas, alfalfa fields, and deserts. (The Marine Blue was seen by Ann Thering on July 24 at Spring Green Preserve --- long known as the

"Wisconsin desert"!)

This sighting could be the 2nd brood, the descendants of a Marine Blue seen there on June 27. On July 27 Tod Highsmith and Joan Braune had 3 Marine Blues in their backyard! These are most easily explained as the 2nd brood from the influx in mid-June. Other multiple numbers are now being reported. On July 29 4 Marine Blues were seen at County Grounds Park in Milwaukee County. And on July 30, 5 were seen, in the same county, at Nojoshing Trail in St. Francis, WI.

Even so, Marine Blues are not easy to find because they are small (wingspan 1 inch or so), the males fly rapidly and infrequently land, and land only briefly. These butterflies probably live 5 – 10 days. There are now at least 16 reports of a couple dozen Marine Blues. For details see www.wisconsinbutterflies.org It will be interesting to see if a third brood is produced.

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SWBA

The Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association (SWBA) is a non-profit Wisconsin chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) which is the largest organization of people interested in butterflies. SWBA promotes public awareness, conservation and the enjoyment of butterflies through observation with close-focusing binoculars, chapter field trips, educational meetings, photography, butterfly gardening, monitoring and travel. SWBA's events are open to the public.

To become a member of SWBA simply join NABA. Membership benefits include 2 color quarterly magazines "American Butterflies" and "Butterfly Gardening". Please use the membership form on the SWBA Web site at <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/>

Our e-Newsletter, the Badger ButterFlyer, will be published monthly in spring to fall. Send any news notes to the editor, Karl Legler, at karlndot@charter.net

To stop receiving this e-Newsletter simply send an email to the above editor's address.

