

Badger ButterFlyer

The e-Newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association) **JUNE, 2021**

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

1 2021 FIELD TRIPS REOPEN! 31st ANNUAL MADISON NABA BUTTERFLY COUNT Monday, July 5, 2021 9:00 - Noon

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1. 2021 Field Trips.
 2. Recent Butterfly Sightings!
 3. 2020 Mud Lake Butterfly Count.
 4. Peter Fissel Pollinator Garden.



Coral Hairstreak.

Sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). This is our 31st annual Madison butterfly count! Each year, butterfly enthusiasts all over North America participate in more than 450 NABA censuses of butterfly species. These censuses help to monitor the health of our butterfly populations and the results are published in an annual report for North America. We will walk in the **UW's Grady Tract**, which has been greatly opened up, so it may attract more butterflies. Bring binoculars, the closer they focus the better. (We have a few extra binoculars.) Dress for protection from the heat and sun, a hat is recommended. Leaders are **Pam Skaar** and **Karl and Dorothy Legler**. The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) requires a **\$3.00 fee** from each participant to help cover publishing costs.



Edward's Hairstreak

Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot for the Grady Tract in the UW Arboretum.

DIRECTIONS: Heading west on the Beltline (Hwy 12), take the Seminole Hwy exit and then turn left (south) on Seminole Hwy driving across the bridge over the Beltline, turning immediately into the parking lot for the Grady Tract. If you have a question about the butterfly count, contact leaders Karl and Dorothy Legler at (608) 228-0743 or karlndot@charter.net

**OTHER FIELD TRIPS ARE BEING CONSIDERED.
MORE SPECIFICS IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER (JULY).**

BUTTERFLIES OF THE AVOCA / BLUE RIVER AREA

Saturday, August 7, 2021

10:30 a.m.- 4 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



Common Sootywing.

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 on Hwy 133. Go west about 5.0 miles, turn right on Hay Road, and drive north to the first parking area.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

2 SOME BUTTERFLIES REPORTED ON:

wisconsinbutterflies.org

In 2020 we can see from the reports on wisconsinbutterflies.org what people were doing during the pandemic. The number of butterfly reports in March, May, June and July 2020 exceeded the previous 2 "normal" years. People were safer when they were outdoors and had more *time* to be outdoors. So more people noticed the butterflies and sent in reports.

Perhaps the most remarkable sighting was on April 7, 2021. A **Common Checkered Skipper** was seen in Prairie du Sac. That was a new record early date for Wisconsin. The previous early record for this species was May 16, 2012. We remember that one well because it was found on a SWBA field trip to Jackson County! It was at least 90 degrees and 2012 was a year that developed the worst drought in 25 years. It is probably no accident that this year's early sighting is also one of substantial drought. The Common Checkered Skipper is a stray and immigrants tend to flee drought areas if they can. We have severe drought to our west.

It seemed to us to be a good year for checkerspots. On NABA's Wazee (Spring) Count in Jackson Co., a group found hundreds of **Gorgone Checkerspots** at one intersection! Then in a trip to Yellowstone Lake we found a good population of **Silvery Checkerspots**. Finally we went up to Wood County Wildlife Area and found a number of **Harris' Checkerspots**. The Harris' Checkerspot is single-brooded and is flying now. The Gorgone Checkerspot has a 2nd brood in the second half of July, while the Silvery Checkerspots will have a second brood in late August to early September.

keep sending reports to www.wisconsinbutterflies.org



Silvery Checkerspot



Gorgone Checkerspot



Harris' Checkerspot

3 2020 MUD LAKE NABA BUTTERFLY COUNT

Last year, on July 3, 2020, SWBA counted butterflies within the 15 mile diameter "Mud Lake" circle and Madison Audubon counted butterflies at their Goose Pond Sanctuary. Altogether, it was an excellent count. A record 30 counters, in 6 parties, counted for a total of 29.8 party-hours of observation and found 1,050 butterflies of 34 species. The **Monarch** (281) was the most abundant species, primarily because of thorough counting at Goose Pond (extensive milkweed.) Similarly for Black Swallowtail (75), Clouded Sulphur (216), and Common Wood Nymph (127). Elsewhere in the circle, **Tawny Emperor** (12) had a good year! The total number of butterfly species found within this circle, over the 32 years, is 69! Below is the full list of **2020 results**:

Black Swallowtail 75
Cabbage White 79
Clouded Sulphur 216
Orange Sulphur 3
American Copper 2
Bronze Copper 1
Banded Hairstreak 26
Coral Hairstreak 3
Eastern Tailed-Blue 14
Summer Azure 10
Great Spangled Fritillary 36

Northern Crescent 57
Baltimore Checkerspot 1
Eastern Comma 3
Mourning Cloak 2
Painted Lady 1
Red Admiral 3
Red-spotted Purple 3
Viceroy 6
Tawny Emperor 12
Common Wood Nymph 127

Northern Pearly Eye 2
Eyed Brown 3
Appalachian Brown 1
Monarch 281
Silver-spotted Skipper 15
Least Skipper 27
Mulberry Wing 4
Northern Broken-dash 2
European Skipper 15
Dun Skipper 1
Delaware Skipper 14



The Tawny Emperor is an exceptionally beautiful butterfly but is usually uncommon. 2020 was a good year for their population!



Delaware Skipper (female).
Photo by Jim Otto.

5 MADISON AUDUBON'S GOOSE POND SANCTUARY TO DEDICATE A Peter Fissel Pollinator Garden ON JULY 10.



Peter Fissel. Photo by Madison Audubon Society.

Peter Fissel, 63, a longtime member of Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, list administrator for Wisconsin Bird Net (Wisbirdn), field trip coordinator and a trip leader for the Madison Audubon Society, died in Madison on April 23, 2020, after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Peter regularly attended SWBA meetings, helped to spot butterflies on our field trips, had agreed to become the field trips coordinator for SWBA, and helped on NABA Counts for many years, especially the Madison Count, Mud Lake Count, Dubuque Count and Northern Kettle Moraine Count.

If you would like to attend this dedication please let Mark Martin know you are coming so they know how many to expect.

Contact Mark at goosep@madisonaudubon.org

The ButterFlyer flits to you every month in summer. The next issue will be in JULY, 2021.

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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.