

# St.Marks National Wildlife Refuge Butterfly Checklist



Assembled by Stacy Hurst, Richard G. RuBino, and Karla Brandt  
September 2002  
Sponsored by the St. Marks Refuge Association, Inc.

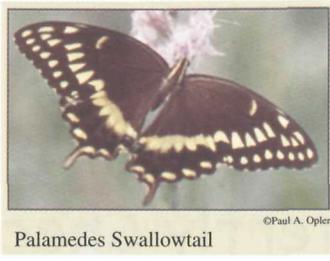
For more information on butterflies and  
other wildlife on the refuge, contact:  
St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge  
1255 Lighthouse Road, St. Marks, FL 32355  
(850) 925-6121  
<http://saintmarks.fws.gov>



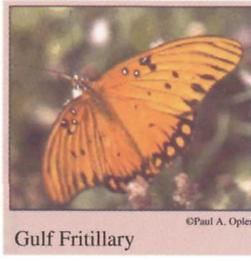
Sunset photo by Shawn Gillette, St. Marks NWR  
Inside photographs are reproduced by permission of Paul A. Opler



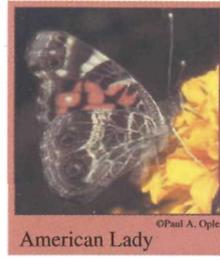
Zebra Swallowtail



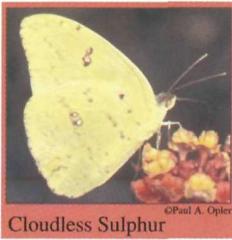
Palamedes Swallowtail



Gulf Fritillary



American Lady



Cloudless Sulphur



Summer Form  
Sleepy Orange



Red-banded Hairstreak



Long-tailed Skipper

This checklist includes the most common species of butterflies found at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, the time of year they might be seen on the refuge, and their habitat preferences.

### Swallowtails

- \_\_\_ Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*) – Jun-Nov; open fields, tidal marshes
- \_\_\_ Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*) – Apr-Nov; edge of deciduous woods
- \_\_\_ Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*) – Apr-Oct; woodlands and fields
- \_\_\_ Palamedes Swallowtail (*Papilio palamedes*) – Mar-Oct; wooded, swampy areas
- \_\_\_ Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*) – Jun-Oct; open fields, brushy areas
- \_\_\_ Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*) – Apr-Nov; deciduous woods
- \_\_\_ Zebra Swallowtail (*Eurytides marcellus*) – Apr-Sep; woodlands, along streams

### Sulphurs and Whites

- \_\_\_ Barred Yellow (*Eurema daira*) – Jun-Oct; brushy areas, open pinewoods
- \_\_\_ Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*) – May-Jul; open fields, lightly wooded terrain
- \_\_\_ Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*) – Mar-Nov; open areas
- \_\_\_ Little Yellow (*Eurema lisa*) – Apr-Nov; open fields, brushy areas
- \_\_\_ Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*) – Mar-Oct; open fields, roadsides
- \_\_\_ Sleepy Orange (*Eurema nicippe*) – Apr-Nov; pine woods, open fields
- \_\_\_ Southern Dogface (*Colias cesonia*) – Jun-Sep; near open woodlands

### Hairstreaks and Elfins

- \_\_\_ Banded Hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus*) – Apr-June; open deciduous forest
- \_\_\_ Henry's Elfin (*Callophrys henrici*) – Mar-May; coastal plain, open fields
- \_\_\_ Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*) – Apr-Nov; open deciduous woods
- \_\_\_ Red-Banded Hairstreak (*Calycopis cecrops*) – Apr-Nov; brushy, overgrown fields
- \_\_\_ Southern Hairstreak (*Fixsenia favonius*) – Mar-Jul; woodland edges

### Skippers

- \_\_\_ Common Checkered Skipper (*Pyrgus communis*) – Apr-Nov; disturbed open areas
- \_\_\_ Common Sootywing (*Pholisora catullus*) – May-Sep; disturbed open areas
- \_\_\_ Eufala Skipper (*Lerodea eufala*) – Mar-Oct; wide variety of open areas
- \_\_\_ Least Skipper (*Ancyloxypha numitor*) – May-Sep; wet marshes, roadside ditches

- \_\_\_ Long-tailed Skipper (*Urbanus proteus*) – May-Nov; brushy or disturbed areas
- \_\_\_ Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*) – Mar-Oct; open areas

### Milkweed Butterflies

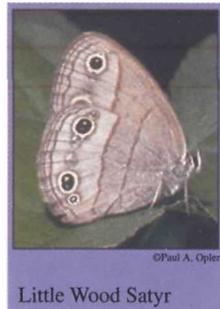
- \_\_\_ Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) – Apr & Oct-Nov; open fields; clusters in trees
- \_\_\_ Queen (*Danaus gilippus*) – Apr-Sep; open areas, brushy fields, roadsides

### Other Butterflies

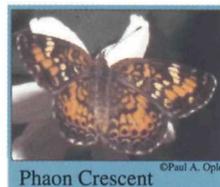
- \_\_\_ American Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*) – Mar-May & Sep-Oct; open spaces
- \_\_\_ Carolina Satyr (*Hermeuptychia sosybius*) – Mar-Nov; open fields, wooded areas
- \_\_\_ Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*) – May-Nov; open fields, pine woods
- \_\_\_ Common Wood Nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*) – May-Sep; moist, grassy areas
- \_\_\_ Gemmed Satyr (*Cyllopsis gemma*) – May-Nov; moist grassy areas
- \_\_\_ Georgia Satyr (*Neonympha areolata*) – Mar-Apr & Sep-Oct; open pine barrens
- \_\_\_ Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) – May-Nov; open scrub, coastal areas
- \_\_\_ Little Metalmark (*Calephelis virginiensis*) – Apr-Oct; sandy pine woods
- \_\_\_ Little Wood Satyr (*Megisto cymela*) – Apr-Sep; edges of woodlands
- \_\_\_ Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) – Mar-May & Sep-Nov; open habitat
- \_\_\_ Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*) – May-Nov; swampy areas, open fields
- \_\_\_ Phaon Crescent (*Phyciodes phaon*) – Mar-Nov; along trails, swampy areas
- \_\_\_ Question Mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*) – May-Oct; woods, nearby open areas
- \_\_\_ Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) – Sep-Nov; open areas or near woodlands
- \_\_\_ Red-spotted Purple (*Limenitis arthemis*) – Apr-Oct; forests, edges, clearings
- \_\_\_ Southern Pearly Eye (*Enodia portlandia*) – May-Oct; wooded areas, bottomlands
- \_\_\_ Tawny Emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*) – Mar-Nov; wooded areas, riversides
- \_\_\_ Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta claudia*) – May-Dec; open fields, coastal scrub
- \_\_\_ Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*) – May-Nov; brushy fields, marshes, lakeshores
- \_\_\_ White Peacock (*Anartia jatrophae*) – Aug-Oct; edge of roads, weedy fields
- \_\_\_ Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charithonius*) – May-Oct; edges of woods and hammocks



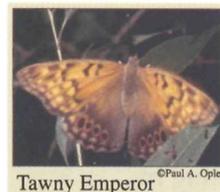
Common Buckeye



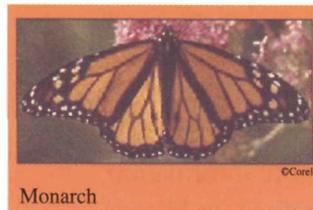
Little Wood Satyr



Phaon Crescent



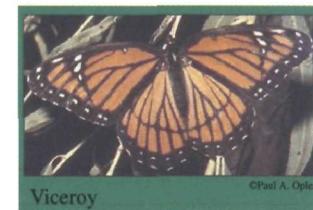
Tawny Emperor



Monarch



Queen

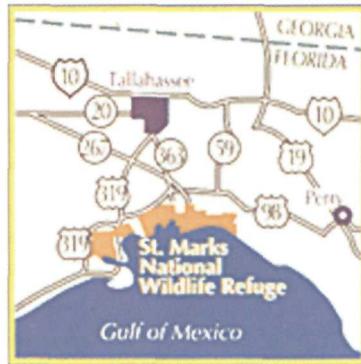


Viceroy

## Butterflies of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

Butterflies are beautiful insects belonging to the order Lepidoptera, which means “scale wings.” They are found everywhere, especially in areas where they can find plenty of food and water. Butterflies are ectotherms, which means that they warm their bodies by the sun. Each species relies upon certain “host” plants to feed on during the larval stages of their lives. Adults lay eggs, which hatch into larvae (i.e., caterpillars). The caterpillars voraciously eat the leaves from the host plant and rapidly gain weight. The caterpillar then pupates into the chrysalis stage, where it is transformed into a butterfly. An adult may live anywhere from a few weeks to a few months, depending on species.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge provides a range of habitats suitable for many species of butterflies. In spring and summer, many plants are in bloom, producing nectar that adults feed on to maintain their bodies and fuel flight. Some butterflies prefer wetlands and swamps, while others are found in open pinewoods, meadows, and shorelines. Butterflies may be seen on the refuge at any time of the year, but are most commonly seen from April through October.



The impressive monarch butterfly, which travels thousands of miles to central Mexico or the California coast to over-winter, can be seen at the refuge during October and November.

## Butterfly Conservation

Butterfly populations are decreasing, due largely to expansion of agriculture, industry, and urban development. Habitat destruction in tropical regions is threatening the survival of migratory butterflies. Adding to these problems are pollution, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and over-harvesting by collectors. One way you can help butterflies and educate the public is to create a butterfly garden. Place the garden in a sunny location, and plant nectar-producing plants such as butterfly bush, purple coneflowers, zinnias, and milkweed. Small puddles of muddy water provide the butterfly with salt and minerals essential to its diet. An area with surrounding trees and shrubs will offer shelter and added protection from the wind. For more information, contact your county extension agent, national wildlife refuge, or library.

# St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Butterfly Checklist



Assembled by Stacy Hurst, Richard G. RuBino, and Karla Brandt  
September 2002  
Sponsored by the St. Marks Refuge Association, Inc.

For more information on butterflies and other wildlife on the refuge, contact:  
St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge  
1255 Lighthouse Road, St. Marks, FL 32355  
(850) 925-6121  
<http://saintmarks.fws.gov>



Sunset photo by Shawn Gillette, St. Marks NWR  
Inside photographs are reproduced by permission of Paul A. Opler