

This checklist includes all 56 butterfly species known to occur at Pinnacles National Monument, plus 5 species that are expected to occur here but have not been documented. It is based on a butterfly inventory conducted by the author from September 1999 through November 2000. The abundance and nectar plant information is based on field observations, while the host plant preferences are based on published accounts. If you make observations that significantly differ from the information in the checklist, please report them in detail to a Park Ranger or the division of Research & Resource Management.

Used along with a field guide, the checklist can help you identify Pinnacles butterflies by narrowing down the possibilities. The abundance and plant preference information guides you to the right times and places to be surrounded by butterflies, and gives insights into the complexities of their world. The intent of the checklist is to help you go beyond mere identification, to more fully experience the butterflies you encounter.

HELPFUL HINTS

Butterflies are creatures of the sun. They are most active from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and are seldom out in the cold, rain, or wind. In the morning, most butterflies visit favorite flowers to sip nectar. Many butterflies can be found near their host plant (the plant on which eggs are laid and caterpillars feed), and some congregate in the afternoon on hilltops to find mates. Some butterfly species fly throughout most of the year, while others are only out for a few weeks. Some are confined to a specific habitat type, while others are widespread. If you look at the abundance and plant preference information, you may see these and other patterns emerge.

ABUNDANCE

The abundance of butterflies at Pinnacles is given for each month from March-November, and for several habitats. Butterflies are also found here in winter months and in other

habitats, but in smaller numbers. Abundance is divided into categories that reflect the number of butterflies you are likely to see if you spend a few hours at that time or place during good weather. The “0-1” category indicates that the species is occasionally found at that time or place, but you are unlikely to see one on every visit. Note that habitat abundance applies to peak months, and off-peak months will have correspondingly lower abundance in each habitat. For example, in May you can expect to see more than 20 pale swallowtails on North Chalone Peak and 1-4 in riparian habitats, but if you return in June you can expect to see 4-20 on the peak and you are not likely to see one in riparian habitats. Weather conditions will cause butterfly timing and numbers to vary from year to year. Finally, some rare butterflies are certainly present in more months than indicated.

BUTTERFLY HABITATS

Buckwheat shrubland consists of California buckwheat and other small shrubs, and occurs mainly on alluvial slopes at the base of hills. (North Wilderness Trail, Old Pinnacles Trail)

Chaparral covers most of the monument. It consists of medium to large shrubs. (High Peaks Trail, Chalone Peak Trail, Juniper Canyon Trail)

Grassy areas include oak woodlands as well as grasslands. They are found in patches throughout the monument. (Chaparral Picnic Area, South Wilderness Trail)

Hilltop/ridge consists of open areas on hilltops and ridges. (Chalone Peak Trail is best; also High Peaks Trail, Condor Gulch Trail)

Riparian includes all areas along streams, whether shaded by live oaks, lined by small willows, or open and sunny. Most species prefer certain conditions, which are usually associated with their host or nectar plants. (North and South Wilderness Trails, Bear Gulch Trail, Moses Spring Trail, Old Pinnacles Trail, Balconies Trail)

PROTECTING BUTTERFLIES

Established as a unit of the National Park Service in 1908, Pinnacles National Monument encompasses 24,000 acres of relatively pristine natural areas, supporting a great diversity of plants and wildlife. We invite you to take some time to experience the butterflies and other natural features protected here. Please keep in mind that you may not harm or remove butterflies or any other feature of the monument. Instead of a butterfly net, carry close-focus binoculars and a camera or notebook.

You can help us monitor the health of our butterfly populations by joining an annual butterfly count, conducted in partnership with the North American Butterfly Association. The count usually takes place around the first weekend in June. You can get details at www.nps.gov/pinn. If you plan to help, please contact us at (831) 389-4485, ext. 0.

NOMENCLATURE

The butterfly nomenclature and classification used in this checklist follows that of the Peterson Field Guide to Western Butterflies, by Paul A. Opler, 1999. Plant nomenclature follows that of the Checklist of Plants of Pinnacles National Monument, 1996.

Cover illustration of Edith's Checkerspot by Paul Johnson and Chad Moore.



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A CHECKLIST OF BUTTERFLIES

OF

PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

By Paul G. Johnson II



CALIFORNIA

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Abundance by Month					Abundance by Habitat					Host Plants/Nectar Plants (Host plants in bold type) (Nectar plants in normal type)				
		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	b	c	g	h	r	
Family PAPILIONIDAE																
Anise Swallowtail	<i>Papilio zelicaon</i>															lomatium
Western Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio rutulus</i>															willows, sycamore; wallflower
Pale Swallowtail	<i>Papilio eurymedon</i>															holly-leaf cherry, red berry
Family PIERIDAE																
Checkered White	<i>Pontia protodice</i>															mustard family
Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>															mustard family
Large Marble	<i>Euchloe ausonides</i>															mustard family
Sara Orangetip	<i>Anthocaris sara</i>															mustard family
Orange Sulfur	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>															pea family
Family LYCAENIDAE																
Tailed Copper	<i>Lycaena arota</i>															gooseberry, currant
Great Copper	<i>Lycaena xanthoides</i>															docks; yerba santa
Gorgon Copper	<i>Lycaena gorgon</i>															buckwheats
Purplish Copper	<i>Lycaena helloides</i>															smartweed, docks
Great Purple Hairstreak	<i>Atlides halesus</i>															mistletoes
California Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium californica</i>															buck brush, oaks, others
Sylvan Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium sylvinus</i>															willows; milkweed
*Gold-hunter's Hairstreak	<i>*Satyrium auretteorum</i>															blue, scrub, & int. live oaks
Mtn. Mahogany Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium tetra</i>															mountain mahogany
Hedgerow Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium saepium</i>															buck brush; yerba santa
Western Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys affinis</i>															buckwheats, deerweed
*Thicket Hairstreak	<i>*Callophrys spinetorum</i>															western dwarf mistletoe
Brown Elfin	<i>Callophrys augustinus</i>															soap plant, dodder, others
Gray Hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>															sage, rose, many others
Western Pygmy-blue	<i>Brephidium exile</i>															saltbush
Marine Blue	<i>Leptotes marina</i>															deerweed, other pea family
Spring Azure	<i>Celastrina ladon</i>															buckeye, chamise, others
*Sonoran Blue	<i>*Philotes sonorensis</i>															dudleya, rock lettuce
Bernardino Dotted-blue	<i>Euphilotes bernardino</i>															California buckwheat
*Pacific Dotted-blue	<i>*Euphilotes enoptes</i>															nude buckwheat
Silvery Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus</i>															deerweed, lupine, vetch
Boisduval's Blue	<i>Icaricia icarioides</i>															silver bush lupine
Acmon Blue	<i>Icaricia acmon</i>															buckwheats, lotus
Lupine Blue	<i>Icaricia lupini</i>															California buckwheat
Family RIODINIDAE																
Mormon Metalmark	<i>Apodemia mormo</i>															buckwheats; butterweed
Family NYMPHALIDAE																
Coronis Fritillary	<i>Speyeria coronis</i>															Johhny-jump-up
Callippe Fritillary	<i>Speyeria callippe</i>															Johhny-jump-up; yerba santa
*Leanira Checkerspot	<i>*Thessalia leanira</i>															indian paintbrushes
Gabb's Checkerspot	<i>Chlosyne gabbii</i>															sunflower family; yerba santa
Mylitta Crescent	<i>Phyciodes mylitta</i>															thistles
Variable Checkerspot	<i>Euphydryas chalcedona</i>															figwort family; yerba santa
Edith's Checkerspot	<i>Euphydryas editha</i>															figwort family; yerba santa
Satyr Comma	<i>Polygonia satyrus</i>															hoary nettle
California Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis californica</i>															buck brush
Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>															willow, others
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>															hoary nettle, dwarf nettle
American Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>															everlasting, others
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>															thistles, nettles, many others
West Coast Lady	<i>Vanessa annabella</i>															bush mallow?; hoary nettle
Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>															speedwell, plantain, others
Lorquin's Admiral	<i>Limenitis lorquini</i>															willow, cottonwood
California Sister	<i>Adelpha bredowii</i>															oaks (esp. coast live oak)
Common Ringlet	<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>															grasses
Great Basin Wood-nymph	<i>Cercyonis sthenele</i>															grasses
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>															milkweeds
Family HESPERIIDAE																
Propertius Duskywing	<i>Erynnis propertius</i>															coast live oak
Mournful Duskywing	<i>Erynnis tristis</i>															oaks; senecio
Northern White-skipper	<i>Heliopetes ericetorum</i>															bush mallow
Columbian Skipper	<i>Hesperia columbia</i>															grasses (?)
Sachem	<i>Atalopedes campestris</i>															grasses; vinegar weed
Woodland Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanoides</i>															grasses; vinegar weed
Rural Skipper	<i>Ochlodes agricola</i>															grasses (?); buckeye
Umber Skipper	<i>Poanes melane</i>															grasses; vinegar weed
		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	b	c	g	h	r	

Key to Symbols:

- * Denotes species suspected but not confirmed to occur in the monument.
- ? Denotes months and habitats in which unconfirmed species are likely to occur.

Abundance: (# you are likely to see in this month or habitat)

- 20+
- 4-20
- 1-4
- 0-1
- 0

Habitat:

- b = buckwheat shrubland
- c = chaparral
- g = grassy areas
- h = hilltop/ridge
- r = riparian

Notes: