

Additional Information

Tips For Observing Butterflies

Look for adult butterflies on flowers, on pavement and on damp dirt. Approach the butterflies slowly and try not to move your hands too quickly gesturing or pointing. Use your voice instead; it will not frighten the butterfly. Wait until everyone in your group has seen the butterfly before you try to photograph it. Look for butterfly eggs and caterpillars on the leaves and flowers of plants.

Tips for Photographing Butterflies

It is easier to photograph butterflies early in the morning when they are cool. Use a flash if possible to give greater detail. Use different angles to get different views of the wings. Start from a few feet away and move in closer with each photo.

Butterfly Resources

- * Glassberg. 1999. *Butterflies Through Binoculars, The East.* Oxford University Press.
- * Brock and Kaufman. 2003 *Butterflies of North America.* Houghton Mifflin Company.
- * Allen et al. 2005. *Caterpillars in the Field and Garden.* Oxford University Press.
- * Wagner. 2005. *Caterpillars of Eastern North America.* Princeton University Press.
- * www.nabamidtn.org. Middle Tennessee Chapter, North American Butterfly Association.
- * www.friendsofsteelecreek.net. Click on "Butterfly Club". Mountain Empire Butterfly Club.
- * www.butterfliesandmoths.org. Butterflies and Moths of North America. Site has lists of butterflies and moths by county.

Dragonfly and Butterfly checklists can be downloaded from www.tn.gov/environment/parks/atbi/checklists/

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About ATBI

This brochure was compiled and developed by the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) group. ATBI is an on-going project in Tennessee State Parks and State Natural Areas. The goal of ATBI is to document all species in Tennessee State Parks, monitor long-term trends in specific taxonomic groups, and promote education about and preservation of all biodiversity with increased science and citizen education efforts. To access the ATBI database, go to www.tn.gov/environment/parks/atbi.

For more information please contact Tennessee State Parks, 7th Floor, L & C Tower, 401 Church St., Nashville, TN 37243. Email: ask.tnstateparks@tn.gov. Phone 1-888-867-2757 or 615-532-0001

Notes: _____

Collecting of plants or animals in state parks and natural areas is prohibited. Please help preserve Tennessee's natural heritage by leaving plants and animals for others to enjoy.

DUNBAR CAVE STATE PARK

401 Old Dunbar Cave Road
Clarksville, TN 37043
Phone: (931) 648-5526
www.tn.gov/environment/parks/DunbarCave/

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS



All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI)

Butterflies of Dunbar Cave State Park and Montgomery County



Photo © Marty Silver

Welcome to the wonderful world of butterflies at beautiful Dunbar Cave State Park! Of the approximate 139 species of butterflies in Tennessee, 54 have been documented in this park.

Above is a picture of a Zebra Swallowtail, the state butterfly of Tennessee. Mrs. Sherrill Charlton and her biology students at Gallatin High School led the way to name the Zebra Swallowtail the state butterfly by researching the species that have been documented in Tennessee. They chose the Zebra Swallowtail because it is abundant in the South, and the caterpillars only feed on the leaves of pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), a native tree found throughout Tennessee.

The class contacted their state senator, Don Wright, who initiated a bill in January 1994. The Tennessee legislature discussed and passed the bill, and the Zebra Swallowtail became the official state butterfly of Tennessee on May 9, 1994.

Butterfly Checklist of Dunbar Cave State Park and Montgomery County

Skippers (Hesperiidae)

- *M Silver-spotted Skipper
- * Sleepy Duskywing
- *M Juvenal's Duskywing
- *M Horace's Duskywing
- M Wild Indigo Duskywing
- * Common Checkered-Skipper
- *M Clouded Skipper
- * Least Skipper
- *M Fiery Skipper
- * Tawny-edged Skipper
- * Crossline Skipper
- *M Sachem
- M Yehl Skipper
- *M Ocola Skipper

Parnassians and Swallowtails (Papilionidae)

- *M Pipevine Swallowtail
- *M Zebra Swallowtail
- *M Black Swallowtail
- *M Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
- *M Spicebush Swallowtail
- *M Giant Swallowtail

Whites & Sulphurs (Pieridae)

- *M Falcate Orangetip
- *M Cabbage White
- *M Checkered White
- *M Clouded Sulphur
- *M Orange Sulphur
- *M Cloudless Sulphur
- *M Dainty Sulphur

Gossamer-wing Butterflies (Lycaenidae)

- * Henry's Elfin
- * Juniper Hairstreak
- *M Red-banded Hairstreak
- *M Eastern Tailed-Blue
- * Spring Azure
- *M Summer Azure

Brush-footed Butterflies (Nymphalidae)

- *M American Snout
- *M Monarch
- *M Gulf Fritillary
- M Great Spangled Fritillary
- *M Red-spotted Purple or White Admiral
- M 'Astyanax' Red-Spotted Purple
- * Variegated Fritillary
- *M Viceroy
- *M Hackberry Emperor
- * Tawny Emperor
- * Silvery Checkerspot
- *M Pearl Crescent
- *M Common Buckeye
- *M Question Mark
- M Eastern Comma
- *M Red Admiral
- M Painted Lady
- M American Lady
- M Goatweed Leafwing
- *M Gemmed Satyr
- M Carolina Satyr

Documented from:

- * Dunbar Cave State Park
- M Montgomery County-County records obtained from www.butterfliesandmoths.org.

Habitat:

This State Park is a 110-acre natural area that is honeycombed by caves and sinkholes, the most prominent being Dunbar Cave. This 8.1 mile cave has historical, natural, archaeological and geological significance. Excavations revealed that this cave has been occupied by man for thousands of years, drawn by its constant stream flow and natural air conditioning.

In the large mouth of the cave, square dances, radio shows, and big band era concerts were once held.

Butterflies can be seen in late March through early November and sometimes even on warm days in the winter.

Good spots:

- ◆ Open areas: along the dam, around picnic areas, any open areas on the park grounds.
- ◆ Along the trail and along the shore of Swan Lake, on bloom plants and "puddling" at damp or muddy spots.
- ◆ Along woodland trails in sunny spots, especially in spring.