

23rd Annual Brazos Bend Butterfly Count Results

We were delighted to have a bright sunny day at Brazos Bend State Park for our butterfly count. Last year we had to cancel because the habitat had not recovered from Hurricane Harvey. This September had many overcast and rainy days, but several sunny days brought out the butterflies just in time for the count.

Our 21 observers included Brazos Bend Volunteers, Master Naturalists and other previous participants, as well as 10 people who joined us for the first time. We divided into six parties, each including both veterans and newcomers.

This was the 12th count since we switched the event from June to October. Comparing our results with past years indicates a good recovery of butterfly populations since the hurricane. Most of the “regular” species were seen. Absent species included **Gemmed Satyr**, which was missed for only the 3rd time in the 12 fall counts, and **Red Admiral**, missed for the 4th time. The rarest find was a **Large Orange Sulphur**, seen for only the third time in the history of the count.

SWALLOWTAILS

- 2 Black Swallowtail
- 6 Giant Swallowtail

WHITES & SULPHURS

- 2 Clouded Sulphur
- 34 Cloudless Sulphur
- 1 **Large Orange Sulphur**
- 86 Little Yellow

HAIRSTREAKS

- 9 Gray Hairstreak
- 3 Red-banded Hairstreak
- 3 Dusky-blue Groundstreak
- 1 *Hairstreak species*

BRUSHFOOTS

- 168 Gulf Fritillary
- 3 Variegated Fritillary

23 Phaon Crescent

62 Pearl Crescent

13 Common Buckeye

3 Viceroy

2 Goatweed Leafwing

7 Hackberry Emperor

30 Tawny Emperor

6 *Emperor species*

20 Carolina Satyr

1 *Satyr species*

5 Monarch

11 Queen

SKIPPERS

52 White-striped Longtail

30 Long-tailed Skipper

1 Dorantes Longtail

8 Horace's Duskywing

1 Funereal Duskywing

6 *Duskywing species*

30 Common Checkered-skipper

61 Tropical Checkered-skipper

17 *Checkered-skipper species*

5 Clouded Skipper

1 Least Skipper

3 Fiery Skipper

1 Whirlabout

5 Southern Broken-Dash

2 Little Glassywing

3 Sagem

16 Broad-winged Skipper

7 Dun Skipper

2 Eufala Skipper

2 Ocola Skipper

4 *Skipper species*

35 *unknown butterfly*

Total 793 individuals / 39 species

Thanks to observers Marsha Arvedson, Steve Arvedson, Karl Baumgartner, Patty Brinkmeyer, Vilma Burwick, Chuck Duplant, Jerry Eppner, Tad Finnell, Linda Heinicke, Deedie Hlinsky, Sandy Jespersen, Cassidy Johnson, Bill Miller, Sue Miller, Frances Pham, Robert Schwartz, Pradeep Sethi, Regina Tippett, Lina Vo and Rose Wagner.

The next count will be held on October 6, 2019.

Rich Jespersen, Compiler