

Welcome to John D. MacArthur Beach State Park!

With its diversity of habitat, the Park is home to a variety of butterflies. This checklist contains 47 species that have been identified in the Park. It is intended to help you identify and record the butterflies you observe.

Butterflies are members of the insect order Lepidoptera in the superfamily Papilionoidea. They are distinct for going through four stages known as metamorphosis. They depend on specific host plants (caterpillar food) on which to lay their eggs and complete their life cycle. Florida has about 200 species of butterflies, including strays, that have been reported. There have been 97 species identified in Palm Beach County. The diverse subtropical habitat at John D. MacArthur Beach supports several endemic and neotropical species. Keep an eye out for these winged wonders in the air and on the ground.

If you observe a butterfly in the Park that is not included on this list, please report your sighting to a Ranger: Please include a photo if possible to verify it with the location, date, and time of sighting, total number, names of observers, and weather conditions.

Park Ranger Station: (561) 624-6950
Nature Center: (561) 624-6952

Checklist Key—Abundance

A = Abundant—may be seen in large numbers periodically or seasonally

C = Common—seen regularly or seasonally

U = Uncommon—limited numbers or occasionally seen in preferred habitat

R = Rare—not to be expected every year

S = Stray—appear periodically and erratically, sometimes due to storms or migration

X = Not recently seen in the park

*Most of the butterflies may be seen all year.
Some species are more common spring to fall.*

SWALLOWTAILS (FAMILY PAPILIONIDAE)

Swallowtails are large dark butterflies, usually with distinctive tails on their hindwings. They are strong flyers and sometimes hover over flowers without ever landing to drink nectar with their long proboscis.

Swallowtails (Subfamily Papilioninae)		
	Black Swallowtail (<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>)	R
	Giant Swallowtail (<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>)	C
	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (<i>Papilio glaucus</i>)	R

WHITES AND SULPHURS (FAMILY PIERIDAE)

A diverse family with adults being bright yellow, white or orange. They have quick erratic flights and perch with folded wings. Males and females may have different colors in winter and summer. Males will “puddle” together at moist soil to sip salts and other nutrients for reproduction.

Whites (Subfamily Pierinae)		
	Florida White (<i>Appias Drusilla</i>)* *Not seen at the Park since 2007 State Rank S1 (critically imperiled)	X
	Great Southern White (<i>Ascia monuste</i>)	C-A
	Checkered White (<i>Pontia protodice</i>)	R

Sulphurs (Subfamily Coliadinae)		
	Yellow Angled-Sulphur (<i>Anteos maerula</i>)* *One recorded 2014	S
	Cloudless Sulphur (<i>Phoebis sennae</i>)	U
	Orange-barred Sulphur (<i>Phoebis philea</i>)	U
	Large Orange Sulphur (<i>Phoebis agarithe</i>)	C
	Statira Sulphur (<i>Aphrissa statira</i>)* *State Rank S2S3 (Imperiled, Rare or Local)	C-A
	Barred Yellow (<i>Eurema daira</i>)	R
	Little Yellow (<i>Eurema lisa</i>)	R
	Sleepy Orange (<i>Abaeis nicippe</i>)	R
	Dainty Sulphur (<i>Nathalis iole</i>)	R

GOSSAMER-WING BUTTERFLIES (FAMILY LYCAENIDAE)

The Gossamer family is the second-largest butterfly family in the world. It includes blues, coppers, hairstreaks and harvesters. They are small and delicate looking butterflies with a diversity of habitat and behavior.

Hairstreaks (Subfamily Theclinae)		
	Atala (<i>Eumaeus atala</i>)* *On planted coontie **State Rank S2 (Imperiled)	R
	Gray Hairstreak (<i>Strymon melinus</i>)	R
	Fulvous Hairstreak (<i>Electrostymon angelia</i>)	U
	Red-banded Hairstreak (<i>Calycopis cecrops</i>)	R

Blues (Subfamily Polyommattinae)		
	Cassius Blue (<i>Leptotes cassius</i>)	C
	Ceraunus Blue (<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>)	R

BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES (FAMILY NYMPHALIDAE)

Brush-foots are the largest family of butterflies in the world. They are called brush-foots because their 3rd pair of legs near their mouth is reduced and have “brush-like” taste organs with extra sensory ability to detect chemicals. Females use their legs to sense chemicals of their specific host plants to lay their eggs.

Heliconians and Fritillaries (Subfamily Heliconiinae)		
	Gulf Fritillary (<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>)	C-A
	Julia Heliconian (<i>Dryas julia</i>)	C-A
	Zebra Heliconian (<i>Heliconius charitonius</i>)	C-A

True Brush-foots (Subfamily Nymphalinae)		
	Mangrove Buckeye (<i>Junonia evarete</i>)	U
	Phaon Crescent (<i>Phyciodes phaon</i>)	U
	White Peacock (<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>)	C
	Red Admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>)	U
	American Lady (<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>)	R
~Continued on back~		

Admirals and Relatives (Subfamily Limenitidinae)		
	Ruddy Daggerwing (<i>Marpesia petreus</i>)	C

Monarchs (Subfamily Danainae)		
	Monarch (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	R
	Queen (<i>Danaus gilippus</i>)	R
	Soldier (<i>Danaus eresimus</i>)	R

SKIPPERS (FAMILY HESPERIIDAE)

Skippers are a large and diverse family of butterflies. Historically, they were not considered true butterflies, but studies now confirm that they are in fact butterflies. Most of them have furry, stocky bodies with large compound eyes and hooked antennae. They are typically small and sometimes drab-colored. The name skipper comes from their quick “darting” flight.

Spread-wing Skippers (Subfamily Pyrginae)		
	Mangrove Skipper (<i>Phocides pigmalion</i>)	C
	Hammock Skipper (<i>Polygonus leo</i>)	R
	Silver-spotted Skipper (<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>)	S
	Long-tailed Skipper (<i>Urbanus proteus</i>)	C
	Dorantes Longtail (<i>Urbanus dorantes</i>)	U
	Horace's Duskywing (<i>Erynnis horatius</i>)	C
	Tropical Checkered-Skipper (<i>Pyrgus oileus</i>)	U

Grass-Skippers (Subfamily Hesperinae)		
	Clouded Skipper (<i>Lerema accius</i>)	R
	Fiery Skipper (<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>)	U
	Southern Broken-Dash (<i>Wallengrenia otho</i>)	R
	Monk Skipper (<i>Asbolis capucinus</i>)	C
	Eufala Skipper (<i>Lerodea eufala</i>)	R
	Twin-spot Skipper (<i>Oligoria aculate</i>)	R
	Ocala Skipper (<i>Panoquina ocala</i>)	R

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park is one of the finest examples of subtropical coastal habitat in South Florida. Encompassing 438 acres of uplands and submerged land, the Park is a unique mixture of mangroves and coastal plant communities. Several native tropical species that thrive in the Park are rare or endangered, including sea lavender, beach peanut, beach star, and hand fern.

All plants, animals, and other resources are protected in Florida's State Parks. Please take nothing but pictures and memories. For your protection and that of your natural heritage, please stay on designated trails and obey all park signs.

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Butterflies of John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

Species Checklist

