



Photo by  
Mike O'Brien

# On The Wing

Newsletter of the Tennessee Valley Chapter,  
North American Butterfly Association

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## No August Meeting

More butterfly counting in August! Any count done after July 31 is considered a fall seasonal count by NABA. Anyone can participate, and you don't have to be a butterfly identification expert. Your leader can make the tough calls. Join us to work on your butterfly identification skills and have a great time in the great outdoors. Bring binoculars (close-focus if you have them), cold drinks, hat, sunblock and snacks.

Remember that all participants in North American Butterfly Association counts must pay a \$3 fee to help NABA defray publication costs.

### Soddy-Daisy Butterfly Count totals Saturday, June 30, 2012

Ten brave participants endured brutal heat while tracking down 30 butterfly species. The unbelievably hot, dry weather contributed to less than stellar butterfly diversity. Temperature at starting time was 86 and it rose to 106 by the afternoon, setting a record as the hottest ever recorded for the date. Participants were: Harold Birch, Bill Haley, Christy Jones, Don Jones, Philip Jones, Sean Jones, Mike O'Brien, Tommie Rogers, Libby Wolfe and Nancy Williams.

**Totals:** Black Swallowtail 1, Giant Sw. 1, E. Tiger Sw. 6, Spicebush Sw. 3, Cabbage White 1, Clouded Sulphur 9, Orange Su. 16, Cloudless Su. 4, Harvester 1, Red-banded Hairstreak 2, E. Tailed Blue 158, Summer Azure 6, American Snout 3, Gulf Fritillary 1, Variegated Fr. 3, Great Spangled Fr. 4, Silvery Checkerspot 6, Peal Crescent 39, Am. Lady 3, Common Buckeye 51, Red-sp. Purple 5, Hackberry Emperor 2, Carolina Satyr 3, Common Wood Nymph 3, Silver-sp. Skipper 5, Clouded Sk. 2, Least Sk. 5, Fiery Sk. 7, Tawny-edged Sk. 1, Sachem 330.

**Total: 30 species, 647 individuals.**

### Saturday, August 11:

#### **Tennessee River Gorge, TN fall seasonal count**

**Meet:** 9:00am in the parking lot of the Signal Mountain Bi-Lo. **Leader:** Bill Haley (see contact information - Fri., Aug. 3)

**Directions:** From Hwy. 27, take the Signal Mountain Rd. exit and head towards Signal Mountain. You'll pass the WalMart on the left, go around a big curve and the Bi-Lo is on the left.

It will have been a little over 2 months since our TN River Gorge summer count. We will attempt to beat the 47 species we found on that one. Late summer is usually the peak of butterfly diversity, so if weather cooperates, we may be able to better that number. This count circle will be the only one in our area to have spring, summer and fall counts in 2012. It may be your last chance to help with a butterfly count this year!

### Tuesday, August 14:

#### **Soddy-Daisy, TN fall seasonal count**

**Meet:** 9:00am behind Subway in Soddy-Daisy. **Leader:** Bill Haley - for info or directions call (423) 326-9248 or e-mail wgh@tnaqua.org.

**Directions:** From Chattanooga, take Hwy. 27N to Sequoyah Rd. exit. Turn right on Sequoyah Rd. When this road meets Old Dayton Pike, you'll see the Subway on your left, KFC on right. Continue straight through the light and meet in parking lot behind the Subway.

The Soddy-Daisy summer count featured brutal 106 F heat. Despite the efforts of 10 dedicated counters that day we only found 30 species. We should do much better on this fall count, as butterfly diversity is at a maximum in late summer. There is no guarantee it'll be any cooler though. Dress for the heat, bring plenty of fluids (**One bottle of water IS NOT ENOUGH!!!!**), and bring something to snack on. A hat and sunblock are always a good idea.

**Note:** We need help from those who do not work during the week. This count is on a **TUESDAY!!!!**

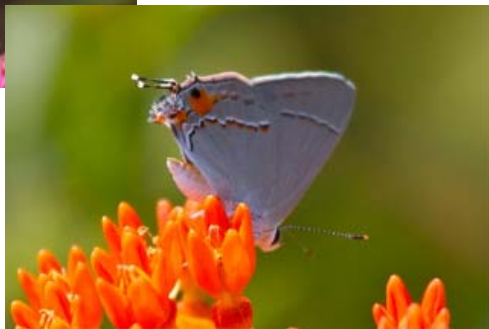
**Lookout Mountain, GA Count Totals  
Saturday, July 7, 2012**

The Lookout Mountain, GA butterfly count was conducted Saturday, July 7. Four participants, Harold Birch, Bill Haley, Mike O'Brien and Nancy Williams, found a very respectable 39 species in 6 3/4 hours. Temperatures were again quite warm, ranging from 85-98 F. Few clouds were seen most of the day and butterfly activity was constant everywhere we went. It is interesting to note that several species found on the Soddy-Daisy count the week before, when our species total was relatively low, were not found in the Lookout Mountain count circle.

Count totals follow:

Black Swallowtail 4, Spicebush Sw. 12, E. Tiger Sw. 6, Cabbage Wh. 3, Clouded Sulphur 3, Orange Su. 15, Sleepy Orange 2, Juniper Hairstreak 1, Gray Ha. 5, Red-banded Ha. 1, E. Tailed Blue 73, Summer Azure 3, Am. Snout 3, Gulf Fritillary 3, Variegated Fr. 7, Silvery Checkerspot 6, Pearl Crescent 19, Question Mark 1, American Lady 4, Com. Buckeye 56, Hackberry Emperor 8, Tawny Emp. 1, Carolina Sa. 6, Little Wood Satyr 1, Common Wood Nymph 1, Silver-sp. Skipper 31, Long-tailed Sk. 4, S. Cloudywing 4, Horaces Duskywing 1, Zarucco Duskywing 1, Wild Indigo Duskywing 1, Com. Checkered Skipper 6, Clouded Sk. 1, Least Sk. 10, Fiery Sk. 32, Crossline Sk. 1, Sachem 186, Dun Sk. 7, Ocola Sk. 4. Immatures: 1 Black Swallowtail caterpillar on parsley sp.

**Total: 39 species, 522 individuals.**



Four small beauties from the Lookout Mtn. count: (from top): Common Checkered Skipper; Dun Skipper (male); Gray Hairstreak; Long-tailed Skipper (right column).

**Stevenson, AL Count Totals  
Saturday, July 14, 2012**

The Stevenson, AL butterfly count was conducted Saturday, July 14. Eight participants: David Spicer, Scott Spicer, Beverly Swafford, Carl Swafford, Harold Birch, Bill Haley, Mike O'Brien and Nancy Williams put in a combined 14 party-hours in two parties. Their efforts were rewarded as they found a season-high 48 species. The week preceding count day was very rainy, and it rained several times during the count. Temperatures were milder than previous weeks, ranging from 79-91 F, and cloud cover of 50-85% and a nice breeze throughout the day was welcomed by the counters. The rains were probably responsible for the great species diversity, as many individuals appeared to be freshly emerged from the chrysalis. A fine total of 17 skipper species was located, as were many uncommon and hard-to-find species. Near the end of the afternoon a Dainty Sulphur was spotted, the first ever on any of Bill's butterfly counts, spanning the past 18 years. Despite the intermittent rains, it was a wonderful day to be in the field!

Bill Haley would like to thank all the dedicated counters who have participated in NABA counts so far in 2012. Your efforts are appreciated!

Count totals follow:

Pipevine Swallowtail 42, Black Sw. 5, Spicebush Sw. 11, E. Tiger Sw. 12, Clouded Sulphur 1, Orange Su. 1, Cloudless Su. 41, Little Yellow 5, Sleepy Orange 101, Dainty Su. 1, Harvester 1, Juniper Hairstreak 1, Gray Ha. 5, E. Tailed Blue 5, Summer Azure 1, Am. Snout 7, Gulf Fritillary 2, Variegated Fr. 6, Silvery Checkerspot 1, Pearl Crescent 43, Question Mark 1, Painted Lady 2, Red Admiral 7, Com. Buckeye 28, Red-sp. Purple 1, Goatweed Leafwing 1, Hackberry Emperor 25, S. Pearly-Eye 7, N. Pearly-Eye 13, Creole Pearly-Eye 1, Gemmed Satyr 9, Carolina Sa. 3, Silver-sp. Skipper 100, Long-tailed Sk. 2, Hoary Edge 2, S. Cloudywing 1, Horaces Duskywing 1, Wild Indigo Duskywing 1, Com. Checkered Skipper 8, Swarthy Sk. 3, Clouded Sk. 5, Least Sk. 6, Fiery Sk. 42, S. Broken-Dash 1, Little Glassywing 9, Sachem 18, Delaware Sk. 1, Dun Sk. 21, Ocola Sk. 2.

**Total: 48 species, 654 individuals.**



nancy williams 7/7/12

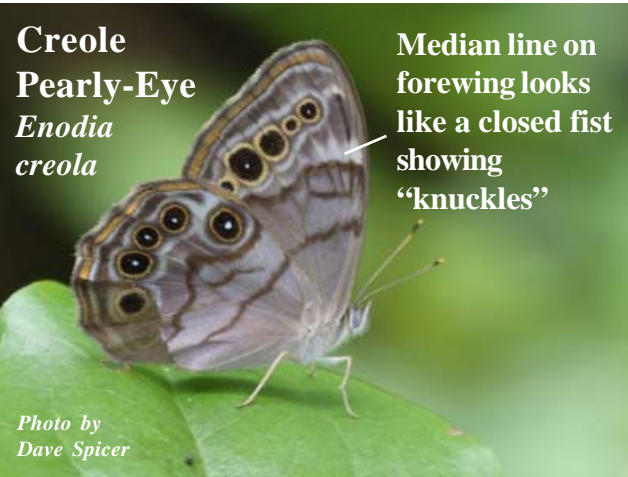
Photos from Soddy-Daisy, TN, June 30



Photos from Lookout Mtn., GA, July 7



Photos from Stevenson, AL, July 14



**BEST FIND OF THE STEVENSON, AL COUNT!** Among the many great finds on the Stevenson, Alabama count on Saturday, July 14, the most surprising was a **Dainty Sulphur, *Nathalis iole***. This very tiny butterfly is the smallest member of the sulphur family and it is a rare stray into northern Alabama from points further south. This individual generated some excitement as it is the first that Bill Haley has ever documented on any of the close to 100 butterfly counts he's conducted for the North American Butterfly Association in TN, AL, and GA over the past 18 years.





**106 Degree Butterfly Count:**

The Soddy-Daisy count on Saturday, June 30 set a record for the hottest butterfly count ever in this area. Ten people braved the brutal heat, proving butterfly counters are tough! The top photo shows them spread out across an expanse of pink clover in Bakewell, where they found lots of Sachems and Eastern Tailed-Blues (the two most numerous species on count day). The photo below shows Philip, Christy, and Sean Jones in action. An early August count in the same count circle 2-3 years ago reached 104. Those three were also on that count. Is there something about the Joneses that brings out the heat?

- Photos by Mike O'Brien.



**Eastern Tiger Swallowtail netted by Sean Jones**



*It was admired briefly by everyone and then set free.*

**More Photos from Stevenson, Alabama**

**Southern Broken-Dash**  
*Wallengrenia otho*



Photo by Scott Spicer

**Cloudless Sulphur**  
*Phoebis sennae*



Photo by Mike O'Brien

**Little Yellow**  
*Eurema lisa*



Photo by Scott Spicer

**Dainty Sulphur**



Photo by Scott Spicer

*Your editor couldn't resist including one more "glamour shot" of the Dainty Sulphur!*