



# On The Wing

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North American Butterfly Association

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## LATE JUNE / JULY / AUGUST NABA BUTTERFLY COUNTS:

(I will be going out of town the day after the Lookout Mountain, GA count, so am sending the July newsletter a bit early, and including all planned counts for the rest of the summer. Leader for these counts will be **Bill Haley**, (423) 326-9248 cell, wgh@tnaqua.org)

### Thursday, June 26, 2014

#### 15th Annual Lookout Mountain, GA Count

**Meet:** 9:30am on South Broad Street in the parking lot of the Towing and Recovery Museum.

**Directions:** As you head away from downtown on Broad Street towards St. Elmo. You'll see the Towing and Recovery Museum on the right. (Statue out front of a heroic tow truck operator saving two people.)

Note that this is another mid-week count, so please plan to come out and help if you are able to get free on a Thursday! While some species have been a bit slow making an appearance this summer, by the time we do this count the butterflies are usually in good supply. We will caravan down to the count circle in Chattanooga Valley from the Towing Museum. Dress for hot weather, wear a hat and sunblock, and bring drinks and snacks. As always, there is a \$3 fee per participant.

### Thursday, July 24, 2014

#### 12th Annual Stevenson, AL count

**Meet:** 9:00am at the old Food Lion location on Browns Ferry Rd. (1st exit off I-24W after Moccasin Bend, then turn right off exit. Store parking lot will be on left in 1/4 mile.) Please be prompt, as we won't wait long before heading to Alabama! Or you can meet us at the first parking lot at 10:00am Eastern at Stevenson City Park, on Hwy. 117 in Stevenson, Alabama.

We usually have good butterflies in Stevenson! Join us on a Thursday and we'll hope for nice butterfly weather.

#### August Counts:

Sat., Aug. 2: TN River Gorge, TN (fall seasonal)

Thurs., Aug. 28: Soddy-Daisy, TN (fall seasonal)

## Tennessee River Gorge Count Totals

The 20th Annual Tennessee River Gorge butterfly count was held on Saturday, June 7, 2014, with seven participants: Susan Schott, Bill Haley, Tommie Rogers, Nancy Williams, Nancy Garden, David Spicer and Scott Spicer. Temperatures ranged from 69-89 F and the wind was very light. Despite partly cloudy skies for most of the day, four parties put in 22.5 party-hours, an excellent effort. It paid off with each party finding some species that others didn't locate. This resulted in a very respectable final total. Being just a few days prior to the NABA meeting, it was worrisome to all that no Dianas were found.

#### *Species and numbers:*

Pipevine Swallowtail 9, Zebra Sw. 1, Black Sw. 1, E. Tiger Sw. 14, Spicebush Sw. 10, Cabbage White 9, Clouded Sulphur 2, Orange Sulphur 22, Sleepy Orange 4, Coral Hairstreak 2, Banded Ha. 5, Striped Ha. 1, Gray Ha. 1, E. Tailed-Blue 62, Summer Azure 10, American Snout 3, Great Spangled Fritillary 59, Pearl Crescent 37, Question Mark 6, E. Comma 3, Mourning Cloak 1, Am. Lady 9, Red Admiral 1, Common Buckeye 3, Red-sp. Purple 4, Hackberry Emperor 50, Tawny Emp. 40, Carolina Satyr 1, Little Wood Satyr 12, Monarch 1, Silver-sp. Skipper 61, Hoary Edge 12, N. Cloudywing 14, Confused Cloudywing 1, Horace's Duskwing 10, Swarthy Skipper 1, Tawny-edged Sk. 2, Crossline Sk. 4, S. Broken-Dash 1, N. Broken-Dash 2, Little Glassywing 1, Zabulon Sk. 3, Dun Sk. 1, Lace-winged Roadside Skipper. anglewing sp. 1. Immatures: 1 Monarch egg on common milkweed.

**Total: 44 Species, 499 individuals.**

*Photo credit, top of page:* Thanks to Bob Hulse, from Texas, for the nice shot of NABA field trip participants in what was dubbed "the Tennessee Field" - so named because it sported Tennessee's school colors - orange and white. This field in Bakewell was absolutely covered by thousands of blooming orange Butterflyweed plants at the peak of bloom, mixed in with white Daisy Fleabane and Queen Anne's Lace.

## Around the Puddle

by Bill Haley

### In the Aftermath

Two days after the big NABA shindig in Chattanooga concluded, I finally had time to mow the yard and decompress a bit after the excitement (and stress) of three consecutive days of butterfly counts and field trips. To be completely honest, by the time it was over, I was pretty near butterflyed out!

Dedicated butterfly afficianados from all over the U.S., and a couple who "hopped across the pond" from the U.K. immersed themselves in our butterflies, and they had a great time. What a treat it was to finally meet several folks in person who I've read about or communicated with via phone or e-mail over the years.

Rita Venable and Bart Jones did an admirable job as hosts for the meeting. Planning an event of that size is not an easy thing and they did all Tennessee butterfly people proud. It seemed things went quite smoothly. I'd like to thank them for the countless hours they spent preparing and planning to make sure all the pieces fit seamlessly together in the end.

I am also extremely proud of our local Tennessee Valley NABA members who stepped up and led field trips. Those leaders included David Spicer, Susan Schott, Tommie Rogers, Nancy Williams, Ann Brown and myself.

I heard many good compliments from attendees who enjoyed seeing not only the butterflies, birds, dragonflies, and flowers, but also our beautiful Tennessee countryside.

Not all of us were able to show field trip participants the target butterfly - Diana Fritillary. Thank goodness Prentice Cooper was the "Diana hotspot" during the conference and most people who wished to see them made it up there. I was pleased to show 15 meeting attendees one male Diana on the Soddy-Daisy count on Thursday, but we struck out on Dianas the other two days of field trips. Oh well. No guarantees!

Now, in the aftermath, I stand in my yard and enjoy a Great Spangled Fritillary sailing between my phlox, purple coneflower and butterfly bush. A fresh male Fiery Skipper sips nectar from a buttonbush and both a male and female Sachem (*a species conspicuously absent during the NABA field trips*) visit the butterfly bush.

After those three hectic NABA days, that's some **RELAXING** butterfly watching!

## Soddy-Daisy Count Totals:

On Thursday, June 12, the 18th annual Soddy-Daisy count was conducted. Never in the previous 17 years have we had so many people take part in this count. We set a new record with 22 people! Participants included: Rosemary Seidler, Jean and Jeff Trahan - Shreveport, LA; Nan Wilson - Albany, NY; Ronda Spink - Kalamazoo, MI; Tom Prince - Yarmouthport, MA; Stephen Moore - Northborough, MA; Cris Herz - Audubon, NJ; Sandy Kellor - Barrington, NJ; Chris Tenney - Carmel, CA; Sue Farnsworth - Winter Springs, FL, James Murphy - San Dimas, CA; Mary Sue Miller - Santa Barbara, CA; Bob Vance - Sarasota, FL; Peter Post - Manhattan, NY; Ron and Sue Cloutier - New Salem, MA; and locals Libby Wolfe, David Spicer, Scott Spicer, Tommie Rogers and Bill Haley. Temperatures ranged from 69-82 F. There was a bit of a tough start on the day with a mostly cloudy morning, but conditions improved by noon. Unfortunately, dark thunderheads threatened and we did not go to some areas in the interest of heading up on Bakewell Mountain and trying for Dianas before afternoon storms developed. Thanks to Dave, Scott, Libby, Tommie, and Chris, who split off from the main group to survey areas on the east side of the river. Their sacrifice paid off with 8 species the larger group didn't find.

### Species and numbers:

Pipevine Swallowtail 1, Zebra Sw. 1, E. Tiger Swl. 8, Spicebush Sw. 6, Cabbage White 1, Orange Sulphur 8, Sleepy Orange 1, Coral Hairstreak 3, Striped Ha. 1, Gray Ha. 1, Eastern Tailed-Blue 29, Summer Azure 3, American Snout 1, Variegated Fritillary 1, Diana Fri. 1, Great Spangled Fr. 43, Pearl Crescent 24, Question Mark 1, American Lady 2, Painted Lady 1, Common Buckeye 2, Red-sp. Purple 3, Hackberry Emperor 6, Tawny Emperor 40, Northern Pearly-Eye 1, Carolina Satyr 1, Little Wood Satyr 8, Silver-sp. Skipper 7, Hoary Edge 3, Northern Cloudywing 2, Horace's Duskywing 1, Clouded Sk. 1, Tawny-edged Sk. 2, Crossline Sk. 7, N. Broken-Dash 5, Dun Sk. 1. Immatures: 1 Eastern Tailed-Blue egg on clover, 1 Spicebush Sw. caterpillar on sassafras, 1 Monarch caterpillar on butterflyweed.

**Total: 36 species, 235 individuals**

### 3 Great Spangled Fritillary on Butterflyweed



Photo by  
Bob Hulse