

Can you guess  
what butterfly  
this is?



Photo by  
Mike O'Brien

# On The Wing

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## Tennessee River Gorge, TN Fall Seasonal Count Totals

The Tennessee River Gorge fall seasonal count was done on Saturday, August 9. Participants were Ann Brown, Tommie Rogers, Libby Wolfe, Scott Spicer, David Spicer and Bill Haley. They split up into 3 parties to better cover the count circle and put in an impressive 22 party hours. Compiler, Bill Haley wishes to thank everyone for their great effort on this count. The count couldn't have started off in a less auspicious way, as it was completely overcast, the mountains were in the clouds and thunderstorms were predicted to arrive by 1:00pm. It didn't look like a good butterfly day, and the counters weren't sure we would see any butterflies at all!

We shouldn't have worried. Despite the 100% cloud cover, we eventually got scattered sunshine in the afternoon. The rain never materialized, the blanket of clouds on the mountains lifted, and all parties stayed out longer because we were seeing so many butterflies! We found butterflies, and plenty of them, all day, ending up with 50 species. It was our best count of the year, maybe the best in Tennessee in 2014.

Pipevine Swallowtail (100), Silver-spotted Skipper (222), Golden-banded Skipper (10) and Ocola Skipper (48) marked a new record high total for this count.

**Species and Numbers:** Pipevine Sw. 100, Giant Sw. 1, E. Tiger Sw. 30, Spicebush Sw. 39, Orange Su. 12, Cloudless Su. 2, Little Yellow 2, Sleepy Orange 11, Gray Hairstreak 3, E. Tailed-Blue 52, Summer Azure 24, Am. Snout 4, Gulf Fritillary 8, Variegated Fr. 2, Diana Fr. 6, Great Spangled Fr. 1, Pearl Crescent 42, Question Mark 1, Am. Lady 1, Painted Lady 4, Red Admiral 2, Com. Buckeye 22, Red-sp. Purple 12, Viceroy 3, Hackberry Emperor 37, Tawny Emp. 13, Creole Pearly-Eye 1, Gemmed Satyr 4, Carolina Sa. 15, Monarch 5, Silver-sp. Sk. 222, Golden-banded Sk. 10, Hoary Edge 8, S. Cloudywing 1, N. Cloudywing 7, Horace's Duskywing 2, Zarucco Du. 1, Wild Indigo Du. 2, Clouded Sk. 1, Least Sk. 10, Fiery Sk. 14, Crossline Sk. 5, S. Broken-Dash 2, N. Broken-Dash 5, Little Glassywing 12, S. Schem 34, Zabulon Sk. 16, Dun Sk. 9, Lace-winged Roadside Sk. 3, Ocola Sk. 48.

**Total: 50 species.**



Libby Wolfe sent in this photo of a beautiful, very fresh, female Zabulon Skipper, *Poanes zabulon* that she took in her yard. Note the wonderful lilac colors on the rich reddish, mahogany brown hindwings. These vibrant colors really "pop" on a fresh individual, but tend to fade as the wings get a bit worn. The white edging at the top of the hind wing is the field mark to look for in identifying female Zabulons, and is distinctive from all other skippers in this area. This species is sexually dimorphic, so the males look nothing like the females.

**Mystery Butterfly:** Can you identify the butterfly in the photo at the upper left corner of this page? Carefully look at the anatomy and it isn't all that difficult. Mike O'Brien took this shot when the butterfly landed on his windshield while his car was sitting in a parking lot. Interesting angle from underneath with blue skies and clouds in the background!



Congratulations to Tommie Rogers and Libby Wolfe for setting a new TN River Gorge count record for Golden-banded Skippers, with 10 found on Aug. 9.

**COUNTED IN 2014:** The following list contains all butterfly species found on these 2014 butterfly counts: TN River Gorge (spring, summer, fall), Soddy-Daisy, TN (spring, summer, fall), Lookout Mtn., GA (summer) and Stevenson, AL (summer). Thank you to everyone who participated in a count this year!

- |                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Pipevine Swallowtail    | 52. Golden-banded Sk.            |
| 2. Zebra Swallowtail       | 53. Hoary Edge                   |
| 3. Black Swallowtail       | 54. S. Cloudywing                |
| 4. Spicebush Swallowtail   | 55. N. Cloudywing                |
| 5. E. Tiger Swallowtail    | 56. Dreamy Duskywing             |
| 6. Giant Swallowtail       | 57. Sleepy Duskywing             |
| 7. Cabbage White           | 58. Juvenal's Duskywing          |
| 8. West Virginia White     | 60. Horace's Duskywing           |
| 9. Falcate Orangetip       | 61. Mottled Duskywing            |
| 10. Clouded Sulphur        | 62. Zarucco Duskywing            |
| 11. Orange Sulphur         | 63. Wild Indigo Dusky.           |
| 12. Cloudless Sulphur      | 64. Com. Checkered Sk.           |
| 13. Little Yellow          | 65. Swarthy Skipper              |
| 14. Sleepy Orange          | 66. Clouded Skipper              |
| 15. American Copper        | 67. Least Skipper                |
| 16. Coral Hairstreak       | 68. Fiery Skipper                |
| 17. Banded Hairstreak      | 69. Tawny-edged Sk.              |
| 18. Striped Hairstreak     | 70. Crossline Sk.                |
| 19. Gray Hairstreak        | 71. S. Broken-Dash               |
| 20. Red-banded Ha.         | 72. N. Broken-Dash               |
| 21. Eastern Tailed-Blue    | 73. Little Glassywing            |
| 22. Spring Azure           | 74. Sachem                       |
| 23. Summer Azure           | 75. Delaware Skipper             |
| 24. American Snout         | 76. Zabulon Skipper              |
| 25. Gulf Fritillary        | 77. Yehl Skipper                 |
| 26. Variegated Fritillary  | 78. Dun Skipper                  |
| 27. Diana Fritillary       | 79. Pepper & Salt Sk.            |
| 28. Great Spangled Fr.     | 80. Lace-winged Roadside Skipper |
| 29. Silvery Checkerspot    | 81. Common Roadside Sk.          |
| 30. Pearl Crescent         | 82. Eufala Skipper               |
| 31. Question Mark          | 83. Ocola Skipper                |
| 32. Eastern Comma          |                                  |
| 33. Mourning Cloak         |                                  |
| 34. American Lady          |                                  |
| 35. Painted Lady           |                                  |
| 36. Red Admiral            |                                  |
| 37. Common Buckeye         |                                  |
| 38. Red-spotted Purple     |                                  |
| 39. Viceroy                |                                  |
| 40. Goatweed Leafwing      |                                  |
| 41. Hackberry Emperor      |                                  |
| 42. Tawny Emperor          |                                  |
| 43. Southern Pearly-eye    |                                  |
| 44. Northern Pearly-eye    |                                  |
| 45. Creole Pearly-eye      |                                  |
| 46. Gemmed Satyr           |                                  |
| 47. Carolina Satyr         |                                  |
| 48. Little Wood Satyr      |                                  |
| 49. Common Wood Nymph      |                                  |
| 50. Monarch                |                                  |
| 51. Silver-spotted Skipper |                                  |

**CORRECTION:** On page 2 of the August issue of *On the Wing*, I incorrectly stated that the Stevenson, Alabama count done on Thursday, July 24 was a fall seasonal count. That is incorrect. Any NABA counts completed in June or July are considered Fourth of July counts. Only if they are done after August 1 are they considered fall seasonals. Sorry for the misinformation!

- your Editor

**Soddy-Daisy Fall Seasonal Count Totals:**

On Thursday, August 28, the Soddy-Daisy, TN fall seasonal count was conducted. Skies were mostly sunny and there was only an occasional light breeze, so it was a good butterfly day. Bill Haley and Nancy Williams braved 94 degree temperatures and high humidity to find 39 species in the last scheduled NABA count of 2014. Seventeen species of skippers were found over the course of the day and two female Dianas were seen on Bakewell Mountain, both nectaring in the same patch of blooming Joe Pye Weed.

*Species and numbers:*

Pipevine Swallowtail 1, E. Tiger Sw. 1, unid. dark swallowtail 3, Cloudless Sulphur 22, Little Yellow 7, Sleepy Orange 4, Gray Hairstreak 6, Red-banded Hairstreak 2, Eastern Tailed-Blue 31, Summer Azure 7, Gulf Fritillary 3, Diana Fritillary 2, Great Spangled Fritillary 9, Silvery Checkerspot 10, Pearl Crescent 6, Common Buckeye 4, Red-spotted Purple 4, Hackberry Emperor 1, Tawny Emperor 2, Northern Pearly-Eye 2, Carolina Satyr 23, Common Wood Nymph 1, Monarch 1, Silver-sp. Skipper 8, Hoary Edge 1, Northern Cloudywing 1, Horace's Duskywing 1, Wild Indigo Duskywing 22, Common Checkered Sk. 1, Clouded Sk. 4, Least Sk. 1, Fiery Sk. 4, Tawny-edged Sk. 1, Crossline Sk. 4, S. Broken-Dash 4, N. Broken-Dash 1, Sachem 161, Delaware Sk. 3, Zabulon Sk. 4, Dun Sk. 2.

**Total: 39 species, 377 individuals**



**Want to See a Female Diana Fritillary?**

You probably won't see any in June when all the males first emerge. We didn't find the first females on a count until August 9 and 28 this year. How do they ever get together to make a future generation of Dianas???