

Hoffman's Checkerspot Wingspan: 1 5/16" - 1 5/8"

Host Plants: *Asters and chrysopsis*

Habitat: *Openings in red fir forest* **Flight:** *June - July*

- Eggs laid singly on host flowers or flower buds. Young caterpillars feed together in silk webs.

- Subspecies *segregata* seen here is different than that in the Sierra Nevada.

Hoffman's Checkerspot - *Chlosyne hoffmanni*



West Coast Lady Wingspan: 1 3/4" - 1 7/8"

Host Plants: *Nettle (ancestral host), mallow and hollyhocks*

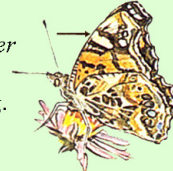
Habitat: *Open area, mountain meadows* **Flight:** *June - September*

- Similar to Painted Lady (*V. cardui*) which is found worldwide.

- Look for orange rectangular patch and square shape of forewing.

- Found from British Columbia to Guatemala.

West Coast Lady - *Vanessa annabella*



Northern Checkerspot Wingspan: 1 3/8" - 1 5/8"

Host Plants: *Aster, Paintbrush*

Habitat: *Open prairies and forests* **Flight:** *May - June*

- Also called "Creamy Checkerspot" due to off-white areas on underside of wings.

- Young caterpillars may live in loose webs of silk.

Northern Checkerspot - *Chlosyne palla*



American Lady Wingspan: 1 7/8" - 2 1/8"

Host Plant: *Pearly Everlasting* **Habitat:** *Meadows and weedy areas*

Flight: *April - October (up to three broods)*

- Also called "American Painted Lady"

- Look for 2 large eyespots on underside of hindwing to distinguish it from other similar species.

- Caterpillars feed in nests of leaves tied with silk.

American Lady - *Vanessa virginiensis*



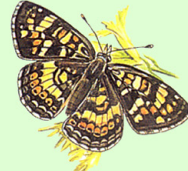
Field Crescent Wingspan: 15/16" - 1 1/2"

Host Plant: *Aster* **Habitat:** *Openings in woods near streams*

Flight: *Jun. - August (two or three broods)*

- Most common crescent found in western mountains and valleys.

Field Crescent - *Phyciodes pratensis*



Lorquin's Admiral Wingspan: 2" - 2 1/4"

Host Plant: *Willow* **Habitat:** *Streamsides*

Flight: *April - October*

- Look for distinctive rapid flapping then gliding.

- Young caterpillars overwinter by rolling willow leaves

into tubes. In spring mature caterpillars have horns and bumps.

Lorquin's Admiral - *Irmenitis lorquini*



Mylitta Crescent Wingspan 1 1/8" - 1 3/8"

Host Plants: *Thistles* **Habitat:** *Various*

Flight: *May - September (two broods)*

- Look for orange antennal knobs.

- Found from sea level to the high mountain meadows and also near urban areas.

Mylitta Crescent - *Phyciodes mylitta*



California Sister Wingspan: 2 1/8" - 2 5/8"

Host Plant: *Oak* **Habitat:** *Deciduous forests and streamsides*

Flight: *May - September (two broods)*

- Differs from Lorquin's Admiral by the larger orange area that does not extend to the tip of the wings.

- Siskiyou Mountains are its northernmost range.

California Sister - *Adelpha bredowii*



Hoary Comma Wingspan 1 1/2" - 1 7/8"

Host Plants: *Currants* **Habitat:** *Coniferous or mixed woods*

Flight: *Generally April - September*

- Western subspecies was once called Zephyr Comma.

- Adults overwinter and live for at least part of next season; can be seen on sunny days up through December and as early as February.

Hoary Comma - *Polgonia gracilis zephyrus*



Common Wood Nymph Wingspan: 1 3/4" - 2 1/8"

Host Plants: *Grasses (roots)*

Habitat: *Open forests and prairies* **Flight:** *May - October*

- Eyespot markings vary greatly among this species.

- Dormant caterpillars emerge in spring.

- Adults sip nectar from flowers in the west but rarely in the more humid east.

Common Wood Nymph - *Cercyonis pegala*



Milbert's Tortoiseshell Wingspan: 1 5/8" - 2"

Host Plant: *Nettle* **Habitat:** *Alpine meadows, streamsides*

Flight: *May - October*

- Easily recognizable by bright orange and yellow band running along outside edge of wings.

- Shiny black caterpillars feed in large groups within protective silk webs.

Milbert's Tortoiseshell - *Nymphalis milberti*



Great Arctic (or Nevada Arctic) Wingspan: 2" - 2 3/8"

Host Plants: *Grasses* **Habitat:** *Open forest (usually in foothills)*

Flight: *June - August*

- Swift flight and quick take off.

- Caterpillars must hibernate for two winters to complete development.

Great Arctic - *Oenitis nevadensis*



Mourning Cloak Wingspan: 2 3/8" - 2 5/8"

Host Plants: *Willows, birch, elm, cottonwood*

Habitat: *Streamsides, wooded glades* **Flight:** *June - September*

- Females lay all eggs on one twig. Young caterpillars stay together trailing silk threads as they feed. If disturbed they all move outward in unison to give the illusion of a single animal.

Mourning Cloak - *Nymphalis antiopa*



Monarch Wingspan: 3 1/2" - 3 3/4"

Host Plant: *Milkweed* **Habitat:** *Open areas*

Flight: *May - September*

- Migrate and overwinter in huge colonies as far south as Mexico.

- Monarchs retain toxic alkaloids from milkweed. Bright colors on caterpillars, pupae and adults warn birds that a meal of Monarchs will make them sick.

Monarch - *Danaus plexippus*



National Park Service
Oregon Caves National Monument

Common Butterflies of Oregon Caves National Monument



Photo: Bruce Muirhead

Butterflies are important pollinators for many plants. Changes in butterfly populations can indicate when we alter ecosystems. One species was even found to contain a rare substance that fights cancer. However, beyond their material benefits, butterflies capture our imagination. There is something in butterflies that awakes in people of all ages, a sense of wonder and beauty.

There are 141 butterfly species known in the Klamath-Siskiyou region making it one of the richest areas in the West. Southwest Oregon also hosts the most rare butterflies in the state. This pamphlet features the most common butterflies found here, but a keen observer may find many others as well. The subalpine meadow on the Big Tree Trail offers some of the best butterfly watching, but on warm days they can be seen everywhere around the monument.

Organization of this pamphlet

Parnassians and Swallowtails (Family *Papilionidae*)

Whites, Marbles and Sulfurs (Family *Pieridae*)

Coppers, Hairstreaks and Blues (Family *Lycaenidae*)

Brushfoots (Family *Nymphalidae*)

A note about terminology:

Host Plants: Plants on which caterpillars feed. Since plants have protective adaptations (i.e. toxins or hairs) butterflies have adapted countermeasures to deal with these defenses. Caterpillar's diet generally consists of only a few plants and sometimes only one.

Flight: The time of year butterflies are in adult form. This pamphlet specifies when each species can be seen flying here at Oregon Caves National Monument.

Clodius Parnassian Wingspan: 2 1/4" - 2 1/2"

Host Plant: Bleeding heart **Habitat:** Moist forests
Flight: May - July
- Transparent wings where white scales are missing.
- Black, fuzzy insulated bodies warms and insulates flight muscles for early season flights.

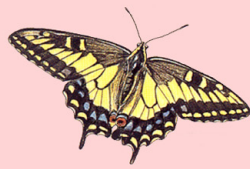
Clodius Parnassian - *Parnassius clodius*



Anise Swallowtail Wingspan: 2 1/4" - 3"

Host Plants: Parsley family
Habitat: Various **Flight:** May - July
- Only swallowtail species to reach truly alpine regions.
- Congregates on hilltops or open areas where males chase each other defending territory.

Anise Swallowtail - *Papilio zelicaon*



Western Tiger Swallowtail Wingspan: 3 1/8" - 3 1/2"

Host Plants: Various (maple, alder, poplar, willow, aspen)
Habitat: Open forests and streamsides **Flight:** May - July
- Young males sometimes come to wet sand or mud along streams to sip water and nutrients (a habit called "puddling").
- Caterpillars green with two spots, designed to look like snake eyes.

Western Tiger Swallowtail - *Papilio rutulus*



Pale Swallowtail Wingspan: 2 7/8" - 3 1/4"

Host Plants: Alder, buckthorn **Habitat:** Forests and meadows
Flight: June - July
- Like all swallowtails, larvae have a concealed scent gland behind their heads. When disturbed it rears back and extends the "osmeterium" releasing an acrid odor.

Pale Swallowtail - *Papilio eurymedon*



Pine Whites Wingspan: 1 1/2" - 1 3/4"

Host Plants: Pines, firs **Habitat:** Conifer forests
Flight: June - August
- Top is parchment white; females' wings have red edges.
- Caterpillars pupate at the base of tree after descending on a silken thread.

Pine White - *Neophasia menapia*



Margined White Wingspan 1 3/8" - 1 5/8"

Host Plants: Mustards (i.e. rockcress, watercress)
Habitat: Moist woods, meadows **Flight:** May - September
- Males have one black spot on forewings and females two. Veins may be outlined in dusky green.
- Second brood hibernates in chrysalis.

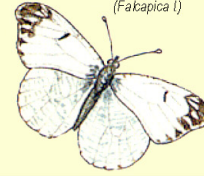
Margined White - *Pieris marginalis*



Gray Marble Wingspan: 1 1/2" - 1 3/4"

Host Plants: Rock cress and hedge mustard
Habitat: Hillsides and canyons **Flight:** May - June
- The common Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*) looks similar but has two spots and lacks hooked forewing and gray marbling.
- At northern end of its range here in the Siskiyou mountains.

Gray Marble - *Anthracaris lanceolata* (*Falcapica* 1)



Orange Sulphur Wingspan: 1 1/4" - 2"

Host Plants: Peas **Habitat:** Various (including urban areas)
Flight: June - September (two broods)
- One of the most common butterflies in North America.
- At night young caterpillars chew holes in leaves while older ones eat half a leaf at a time.

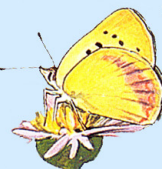
Orange Sulphur - *Colias eurytheme*



Lilac-bordered Copper Wingspan: 1" - 1 1/8"

Host Plant: Knotweed **Habitat:** Mountain meadows
Flight: June - August
- Top side of males iridescent purple-brown; females are dull orange with black spots and black border (highly variable).
- Look for males in low areas waiting for females.

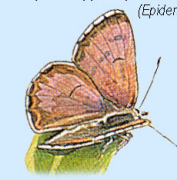
Lilac Bordered Copper - *Epidemia nivalis* (*Lycæna n.*)



Mariposa Copper Wingspan: 1 1/16" - 1 1/4"

Host Plant: Blueberry **Habitat:** Moist openings in high elevation pine forests **Flight:** July - September
- Males iridescent purple; females brown with yellow patches.
- Can sometimes be seen flying when first snows hit high mountain forests.

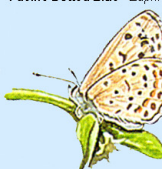
Mariposa Copper - *Lycæna mariposa* (*Epidemia m.*)



Pacific Dotted Blue Wingspan: 7/8" - 1 1/8"

Host Plant: Buckwheat **Habitat:** Sun-exposed rocky slopes
Flight: June - September
- Adult life span about 4 days for males, 5 days for females.
- Adults sip nectar of host plant flowers. Males fly around these flowers all day for females.

Pacific Dotted Blue - *Euphylobes eoptes*



Northern Blue Wingspan: 7/8" - 1 1/8"

Host Plants: Legumes
Habitat: High mountain meadows **Flight:** June - September
- Top of wings are iridescent blue on males and brown on female.
- Caterpillars secrete sugar that attracts ants. In turn these ants defend the caterpillars from predation.

Northern Blue - *Lycæides idas*



Acmon Blue Wingspan: 3/4" - 1"

Host Plants: Buckwheat, legumes **Habitat:** Prairies, dry foothills
Flight: May - September (several broods)
- Top of wings are blue on males and brown on females. Look for distinctive row of orange spots on the hindwings.
- Caterpillars are tended by ants.

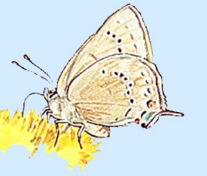
Acmon Blue - *Icaricia acmon*



Sylvan Hairstreak Wingspan 7/8" - 1 1/8"

Host Plants: Willows **Habitat:** Streamsides and marshes
Flight: May - August
- Extreme variation in presence of tail and the orange above
- Adults sip nectar from dogbane and milkweed. Males perch on low vegetation near host plants to watch for females.

Sylvan Hairstreak - *Satyrium sylvinum*



Coronis Fritillary Wingspan: 1 15/16" - 2 1/2"

Host Plants: Violets **Habitat:** Various **Flight:** June - September
- Flies to mountains in midsummer where flowers abound and returns to lowlands in late summer to lay eggs.
- Females delay egg laying about a month after mating, and can be seen in September when males are rarely found.

Coronis Fritillary - *Speyeria coronis*



Zerene Fritillary Wingspan 2 1/8" - 2 3/8"

Host Plants: Violets **Habitat:** Various **Flight:** June - August
- Top of wings red-brown with dark markings. Undersides of hindwings have more triangular spots than Coronis Fritillaries.
- A coastal subspecies of this butterfly has nearly disappeared due to increased recreational use, development and non-native plants.

Zerene Fritillary - *Speyeria zerene*



Great Basin Fritillary Wingspan 1 3/4" - 2 1/4"

Host Plants: Violets **Habitat:** Various open spaces
Flight: June - August
- Looks like Coronis and Zerene Fritillary but usually smaller.
- Males patrol violets for females. Eggs laid on nearby leaf litter. First-stage caterpillars hibernate unfed until spring.

Great Basin Fritillary - *Speyeria egleis*



Callippe Fritillary Wingspan 2" - 2 3/8"

Host Plants: Violets
Habitat: Prairies, mountains and alpine areas
Flight: June - August
- Males congregate on high hilltops awaiting females.
- With most other fritillaries the males patrol the flats or slopes.

Callippe Fritillary - *Speyeria callippe*



Hydaspe Fritillary Wingspan: 2" - 2 1/4"

Host Plants: Violets **Habitat:** Forest **Flight:** June - September
- One of the easiest fritillaries to identify, with dark maroon underside without silvery spots
- One of the most common fritillaries.
- Unfed first stage caterpillars overwinter by hibernating.

Hydaspe Fritillary - *Speyeria hydaspe*



Pacific Fritillary Wingspan: 1 5/8" - 1 15/16"

Host Plants: Violets **Habitat:** Mountain meadows, open forests
Flight: May - August
- Tips of forewings are more rounded than most fritillaries.
- Adults feed on yellow composite flowers and buckbrush nectar.
- Overwinter as caterpillars.

Pacific Fritillary - *Boloria epithore* (*Clossiana e.*)

